KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME

3

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME

3

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 12 ♦ 003

CHAPTER 13 ♦ 035

CHAPTER 14 ♦ 065

CHAPTER 15 ♦ 095

CHAPTER 16 ♦ 129

CHAPTER 17 ♦ 157

WITCH HAT ATELIER

♦

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA

Chapter 12

YOU TREMBLE FOR NAUGHT.

WHEN YOUR MEMORY OF MAGIC FADES...

...SO, TOO, WILL YOUR FEAR.

YOU WILL SIMPLY BECOME AN OUTSIDER. NOTHING MORE. NOTHING LESS.

I'M TELLING YOU! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!

WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?!

WAIT! PLEASE!

I DON'T WANT TO FORGET MY MOTHER!!

N...

NO!

ヒュオオオオ

SHHHWWWW

WHAM

BWOOF
!!
BFF BFF BFF BFF
BFF BFF BFF BFF BFF BFF
SNAP
WH
OA
AA
FWSSHH
AA
AH!
PWUMPH
FWOING
HEY, ISN'T THIS...?
...THE SERPENT'S BED OF SAND!
FWOING
FWIP

YOU KNOW, IT'S PRETTY *MEAN* OF YOU...

...NOT TO LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!

WHO ARE *THEY?*

フワッ
FWISH

JUST CHILDREN.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE BURNT THE PENNANTS.

I'M WITH TETIA.

THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE...

...THAN ADULTS WHO TREAT KIDS LIKE *THINGS* INSTEAD OF PEOPLE.

YES! THANK YOU!

ARE YOU TWO OKAY?!

I HADN'T IMAGINED I'D BE USING IT TO SAVE MY FRIENDS!

IT'S A GOOD THING I PRACTICED THIS SPELL!

...IF IT MEANT BEING THANKED BY YOU, COCO!

NO, THANK *YOU!*

I'D HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO *ANYTHING*...

CLIP カチ

...BUT THE FACT THAT THE PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN VIOLATED.

...WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THE CIRCUM-STANCE...

...ALL WITCHES CAREFULLY UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES.

...HANGS EVER PRECARIOUSLY. WE CONTINUE TO ENJOY PEACE *SOLELY* BECAUSE...

THE ORDER WE HAVE IN THIS WORLD...

IF THE BALANCE WERE TO FALTER, ALL WOULD COME CRASHING DOWN AT ONCE.

THEREFORE, *NO* EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE.

SHKK
チャキ

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEPT YOUR HANDS OFF MY APPRENTICES, EASTHIES.

FOR SOMEONE WHO REFUSES TO LISTEN, YOU SURE DO LIKE TO TALK.

I SEE. SO THESE FOUR BELONG TO YOU.

HOW FITTING. THEIR IMPERTINENCE WELL RESEMBLES THAT OF THEIR MASTER.

WOULD YOU STILL CLAIM THE GIRL POSES NO THREAT?

BETTER THEY BECOME IMPERTINENT THAN LIKE YOU.

PARTICULARLY IF *THIS* IS HOW THE KNIGHTS CONDUCT THEIR DUTIES.

WE MERELY SEEK ORDER. OBSERVE THE DEVASTATION BELOW.

SFF Z"

SHOULD SUCH MAGIC CONSUME THE LAND ANEW...

...IT IS ONLY REASONABLE THAT THE CASTER BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

IT TAKES POWERFUL MAGIC TO ALTER THE LANDSCAPE ITSELF. THE FLOATING MOUNTAINS OF THE DADAH RANGE, THE SHADOW FOREST OF THRISTAS—

ALL SUCH ABOMINATIONS ARE THE RESULT OF SPELLS OF WAR, COMPOSED IN THE DAYS OF CHAOS PRECEDING THE PACT.

BESIDES, A SPELL'S STRENGTH IS DICTATED BY THE SIZE AND PRECISION OF ITS COMPOSITION.

PERHAPS.

BUT I'D SAY WIPING A MIND WITHOUT FIRST HEARING WHAT IT HAS TO SAY IS RASH, AT BEST.

...THE SKILL OR TOOLS NECESSARY TO PERFORM FEATS OF THIS SCALE.

I CERTAINLY DON'T RECALL BESTOWING UPON MY APPRENTICES...

!

YOU MAY NOT HAVE.

BUT WHAT OF THE BRIMMED CAPS?

...

...BUT I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR *DUTY* AS WITCHES.

ARGUE THIS OUT IF YOU'D LIKE...

HEY, YOU FOOLS!

SEEMS LIKE THOSE GIRLS HAVE A BETTER HANDLE ON THAT THAN ANY OF YOU!

"BRING THE BLESSING OF MAGIC TO THE PEOPLE"? RING ANY BELLS?

YOU TWO SAVED CUSTAS FROM THE RIVER!

YOU DESERVE OUR *THANKS!* NOT *BLAME!*

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?

ARE YOU UNINJURED?

I'M ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU. IT'S JUST SAND.

I'M SORRY THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.

...

HOW ABOUT PUTTING THOSE PENNANTS OF YOURS TO GOOD USE...

...INSTEAD OF FLOATING AROUND UP THERE?

W...

WILL THAT HEAL HIS WOUNDS?

NO. I'VE ONLY STOPPED THE BLEEDING.

TW-

!!

GRAB

I'LL SEE HIM TO KALHN NOW.

WITH SWIFT ATTENTION FROM A DOCTOR, HIS LIFE SHOULD NOT BE IN DAN—

IRL

I SAW HOW YOU REPAIRED THOSE PENNANTS.

CHARRED TATTERS MADE WHOLE AGAIN THROUGH *MAGIC!*

WHY DO YOU REFUSE TO HEAL HIM *HERE?!*

YOU CAN DO THE SAME FOR THIS BOY, YES?

YOUR MAGIC *MUST* BE CAPABLE OF THAT!

NO.

IT IS NOT.

OR WOULD YOU PREFER THAT I NOT CARRY HIM TO KALHN?

FLOAT

!

PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HAND.

N-NO! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

SWAT

FORGIVE ME.

PLEASE. THE CHILD IS IN YOUR CARE.

...

ゴゴゴ RUMBLE

RUMBLE ゴゴゴ

ONCE RESCUES ARE COMPLETE, SEAL OFF THE AREA FOR SAFETY. WITCHES ONLY.

OTHER SECTIONS OF THE RIVERBANK MAY YET CRUMBLE.

AND WHEN THE OUTSIDERS ARE ALL GONE...

TMP トン!

...

...THE QUESTIONING CAN ALSO RESUME.

YES, MASTER.

THIS IS THE SEAL YOU DREW BY THE RIVER?

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

KBB

MM

SHFFF

SST

IT WAS LIKE THAT WHEN I SAVED CUSTAS, TOO! ONLY THE PART OF THE ROCK THAT TOUCHED THE SEAL TURNED TO SAND.

AN ORDINARY SEAL STRAIGHT OUT OF THE PRIMER...

SHOW ME YOUR HANDS.

HUH?

WHAT FOR?

NO. IT'S NOT.

NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF SPELL THAT TEARS UP AN ENTIRE RIVER-BANK, IS IT?

ON OCCASION, THE BRIMMED CAPS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO...

...TATTOO SEALS ONTO THEIR OWN SKIN.

FORBIDDEN ARTS TO STRENGTHEN OR ALTER THEIR BODIES...

...OR TO INCREASE THE FORCE OF THEIR MAGIC...

...!

THE INK-SMEARED, CALLUSED FINGERS...

...OF A CHILD JUST LEARNING HOW TO CAST...

Hmm.

LEAN

HAVE YOU SEEN ENOUGH?

IF EVIDENCE IS FOUND OF THE GIRL'S INVOLVE-MENT...

I WILL BE FILING A REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT AT THE GREAT HALL. EXPECT A FORMAL INVESTIGATION.

...HMPH.

...REST ASSURED THAT HER AGE WILL NOT SHIELD HER FROM REPERCUSSION.

I SUGGEST YOU TREAD CAREFULLY...

...AND TAKE CARE NOT TO FORGET THIS LESSON.

THAT SAID...

COCO AND AGOTT...

YEESH.

MY NERVES ARE *SHOT*. THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL OKAY.

PHEW.

IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, MASTER!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, GIRLS.

IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR BOTH ADULTS TO BE AWAY AT THE SAME TIME.

...YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT YOU DID WAS *TERRIBLY* DANGEROUS.

IF ANYONE HERE HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF MAGIC...

...WE WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ERASE THE MEMORIES OF EVERY PERSON WE'D JUST MANAGED TO SAVE.

EVERY MIND IS DIFFERENT, CONTAINING AN ACCUMULATION OF MATTERS UNIQUE TO EACH PERSON.

EACH MIND IS THAT PERSON'S KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, THEIR PAST— THEIR VERY LIFE ITSELF!

YOUR ACTIONS PUT THOSE TREASURES AT STAKE.

!

PLEASE DO. I'M COUNTING ON YOU TWO.

I'D RATHER NOT SEE ANYONE'S MEMORIES GONE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

I'M SORRY, MASTER.

WE'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.

NOW I'M EVEN FURTHER FROM THE TEST THAN BEFORE.

I MUST ADMIT, THOUGH...

...YOU TWO MANAGED TO PULL OFF QUITE THE RESCUE. AGOTT, I'LL PUT IN AN APPLICATION FOR YOU TO TAKE THE SECOND TEST.

PASS, AND YOU'LL BE DEEMED READY TO ACCOMPANY US ON WORK IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

I SAW THAT BIRD OF LIGHT YOU DREW TO HELP SAVE THE BOY. IT WAS MAGNIFICENT.

GLOW

YES, MASTER!

Y...

SO, CAN YOU PROMISE NOT TO CAST IN FRONT OF OTHERS UNTIL *AFTER* YOU'VE PASSED?

QIFREY!

MASTER, WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?!

ONLY AGOTT GETS TO TAKE IT?!

AWW, NO FAIR!

SHAKE

SHAKE

THERE'S *MORE* THAN JUST ONE TEST?!

WHATEVER. I CAN'T STAND TESTS ANYWAY.

YOU THREE STILL HAVEN'T MADE IT TO THE END OF YOUR *BASICS OF CASTING* PRIMER.

NGRK!

I STILL AM, BUT...

...IT ONLY DISTURBS ME WHEN IT ISOLATES HER—WHEN IT DRIVES HER AWAY FROM THE REST OF US.

YOU SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA? THOUGHT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT AGOTT'S HASTE.

A LITTLE LAX, I'D SAY.

ONE HAS TO BE, WHEN ONE'S STUDENTS ARE HARD ON THEMSELVES.

SO I'M INCLINED TO THINK...

...I SHOULD TRUST HER TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE RIGHT NOW.

...WE MUST TAKE CARE OF HERE.

WE HAVE ONE MORE THING...

MASTER QIFREY! I'D LIKE TO HURRY HOME TO CONTINUE MY EXERCISES!

JUST A MOMENT.

THAT NEW APPRENTICE OF QIFREY'S IS THE SAME GIRL EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT.

IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, THEN SHE'S...

YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS, EAS?

NO. THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL RECOVER ANYTHING FROM THAT PETRIFIED HOME.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF TO CONFIRM THE RUMORS?

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING THIS MATTER LIE.

OBSERVE.

THEN EXTRACTING HER CONFESSION IS OUR ONLY CHOICE.

THE SPELL IS CAUSING THE ENTIRE LOWER PORTION OF THE RIVER TO DRY UP.

JUST AS A SINGLE LOOSE STONE MAY CAUSE A WHOLE BANK TO COLLAPSE. THE ENTIRE RIVER IS DIVERTED...

...AND CHANGE IS CARRIED ALL THE WAY DOWNSTREAM.

THAT GIRL IS A LOOSE STONE.

WHEN IT'S DONE, THE BEAUTY ONCE FOUND THERE...

...WILL BE FOREVER LOST TO TIME.

AND IF THERE IS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF HER BECOMING DISLODGED...

...WE MUST STOP AT NOTHING TO REMOVE HER FROM OUR RIVER.

WOW!

IT'S A BRIDGE MADE OF SAND!!

DID YOU NOTICE THE SPECIAL TYPE OF PEN OLRUGGIO IS USING?

IT CAN SEAR SEALS DIRECTLY INTO SURFACES OF ROCK AND WOOD.

IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY FIX...

...BUT THIS SEAL WILL PROVIDE THE FINAL SUPPORT.

SEARNEEDLE WAND

A WAND WITH A NEEDLE-LIKE TIP THAT GROWS HOT WITH MAGIC. ABLE TO ETCH CASTING SEALS INTO SURFACES SUCH AS METAL, STONE, WOOD, AND LEATHER.

THE RENDING SPELL MUST BE WEARING OFF.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE RIVER IS FLOWING HERE AGAIN.

HM?

2SSSH

OH!

YOU DROPPED THESE.

COCO, COME HERE.

SORRY, MASTER! THANK YOU FOR FINDING IT!

BOW ペコリ

YOU MUST BE MORE CAREFUL. WE CAN'T LEAVE CONJURING INK LYING AROUND.

I WAS USING THIS INK WHEN WE FACED THE DRAGON. AND AGAIN TODAY.

BUT THE BOTTLE'S STILL FULL, LIKE I NEVER TOUCHED IT.

HUH? THAT'S ODD.

?

!!!

COCO...

...COULD I HAVE A LOOK AT THAT, PLEASE?

DOES IT REFILL ITSELF EVERY TIME YOU USE IT?!

MAGIC IS SO AMAZING!

WAIT! IS THIS SOME KIND OF MAGIC INKPOT?!

WHOOOOAA!

WHAT IS IT, MASTER?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

FEH. MAGIC IS THE FALSEHOOD THAT MAKES OUR WORLD VIBRANT.

...THAT BEAR BEAUTIFUL SPELLS TO FRUIT.

SO STAINED WITH POISON ARE THESE HANDS...

HOW LONG, I WONDER, CAN THIS RUSE BE MAINTAINED?

SQUEEZE

AND YET NO LIE...

...CAN SURVIVE CLOSE SCRUTINY.

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 13

THAT'S RIGHT.

...FROM MISTER NOLNOA IN KALHN, RIGHT?

THE BOTTLE'S REAL LITTLE, SO IT'S EASY TO CARRY AROUND.

THIS INK. YOU GOT IT...

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE INK, MASTER QIFREY?

WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO OFF TO?

HUH?

PLEASE SEE THE GIRLS BACK TO THE ATELIER FOR ME.

OLRUGGIO!

KALHN IS JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY. WHAT BETTER CHANCE TO TAKE HER?

IN ALL THE COMMOTION THE OTHER DAY, I WASN'T ABLE TO BUY COCO A WAND!

WELL...

PAT!

WHISPER

SORRY TO GET YOU WRAPPED UP IN THIS...

...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO LOOK INTO.

YOU BETTER PICK ME UP A BOTTLE OF SILVERNECTAR WINE.

ONE BOTTLE OF FIRST FLUSH AND ONE BOTTLE OF AGED!

GOOD. I'LL BE EXPECTING THEM.

AND YOU'LL PAY ME BACK, RIGHT? ♡

WHY, YOU LITTLE ...

THE STARRY SWORD, MAGIC STATIONER'S IN KALHN.

HUH? THE DOOR'S GONE.

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT

LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY'RE CLOSED TODAY.

HUH?!

WHEN THE STORE IS CLOSED, THE WHOLE THING *DIS-APPEARS?!*

DRAT.

THERE USED TO BE A DOOR HERE, RIGHT?!

PERHAPS THE SKYLIGHT IS STILL THERE.

Or would that be breaking and entering?

OH!

MISTER QIFREY! HELLO.

AND YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO...

I'LL OPEN UP THE SHOP.

SHF

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

SURE. HOLD ON ONE MOMENT.

TARTAH! OH, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU. I NEED TO SEE MISTER NOLNOA.

PLEASE, COME IN.

DIFFERENT DOORKNOB, DIFFERENT ROOM. *OBVIOUSLY.*

IT LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER DAY!

I, UH... DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME...

HEY, UH... YOU SHOULD WAIT DOWN HERE...

GRANDPA IS PROBABLY UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR.

COCO! MY NAME'S COCO.

Didn't notice I'd hurt myself.

OH...

COCO, HUH?

...ON YOUR ANKLE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

WELL, YOU SHOULD SEE TO THAT SCRATCH...

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THE MESS, THOUGH.

WE'VE GOT SOME TRANQUILEAF I CAN APPLY.

FOLLOW ME TO THE BACK.

WOW. SO MANY COMPONENTS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

DON'T GO MESSING THEM UP.

THEY'RE ALL IN A SPECIFIC ORDER.

WHAT ARE ALL THESE COLORFUL POWDERS?

THESE ONES ARE SO PRETTY!

THE POWDERS ARE ALL MAGIC DYES.

STUFF YOU CAN MIX INTO THE INK TO ACHIEVE CERTAIN EFFECTS.

QIFREY? SHOP'S CLOSED TODAY, MY LAD.

YES, I'M AWARE. BUT...

7 7 FLOAT

7 7 FLOAT

EXCUSE ME. MISTER NOLNOA?

...THEN THERE STILL AIN'T A CLUE TO BE HAD.

NOT THAT I MIND. I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR.

SORRY, BUT IF IT'S ABOUT THAT COBBLESTONE...

I'VE TRIED EVERY SPELL I CAN FATHOM TO ISOLATE THE DYES.

BUT THE DARN STUFF'S STUBBORN. MELTS AWAY TO NOTHIN'.

...LOOKING FOR COMPONENTS THAT MATCH. AIN'T FOUND A ONE!

AND I'VE TURNED MY STOREHOUSE INSIDE OUT...

HM?

KA-CHIK

ACTUALLY, I HAPPENED ACROSS...

...SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? FIND ANY CLUES?

?!

HANG ON A TICK. AIN'T THIS ONE OF *MY* INKPOTS?!

FWIP

スチャッカ

FWIP

スチャッカ

FWIP

スチャッカ

SO I WAS RIGHT ...

THIS INK...

IT'S LIKE THE COBBLE-STONE!

SLIGHT TINGE OF BLUE... QIFREY, MY LAD, WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?!

SHF

SHF

THAT DAY WITH THE DRAGON...

THE BRIMMED CAPS MUST HAVE CAST A SPELL ON THE INKPOT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

カリ カ

CLATTER

YOU MUSTN'T DRAW WITH IT 'TIL WE KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE!

QIFREY, WAIT!

HEY...

...WHAT ABOUT THAT SEAFOAM-COLORED ONE? WHAT'S THAT ONE CALLED?

QIFREY!

SCALES FROM THE BLUSHING BRIDE. IT'S A KIND OF BUTTERFLY. IT MAKES THE INK TRANSPARENT, SO YOU CAN HIDE SEALS IN PLAIN SIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT THE WHITE SPARKLY ONE JUST OPPOSITE?

THE BIG ONE! NEAR THE CEILING!

THAT'S POWDER FROM AN AZUREMOON FLOWER. WHEN YOU MIX IT INTO THE INK, SPELLS LAST LONGER.

THEY'RE ALL SO WONDER-FUL!

THE HANGING ONE IS FULL OF GROUND-UP ROAMING SCALLOP SHELLS. KEEPS INK FROM RUNNING WHEN WET.

AND GROUND-UP SCALES FROM A GOLDEN BLAZE WYRM MAKE THE INK GLOW IN THE DARK.

WHOA...

YEAH... IT'S WHAT WE DEAL IN.

AND IT'S KINDA FUN TO PERUSE THE CATALOG.

AND YOU KNOW SO MUCH! CAN YOU NAME EVERY DYE IN THIS ENTIRE ROOM?!

GLANCE しば

YOU'RE *SO* LUCKY, TARTAH!

I GET EXCITED JUST *SEEING* THE WHOLE WALL COVERED IN SHELVES AND JARS!

IT'S SO GREAT!

I WISH *I* COULD LIVE IN A STATIONER'S SHOP!

LOVE IT! I'M SO JEALOUS!

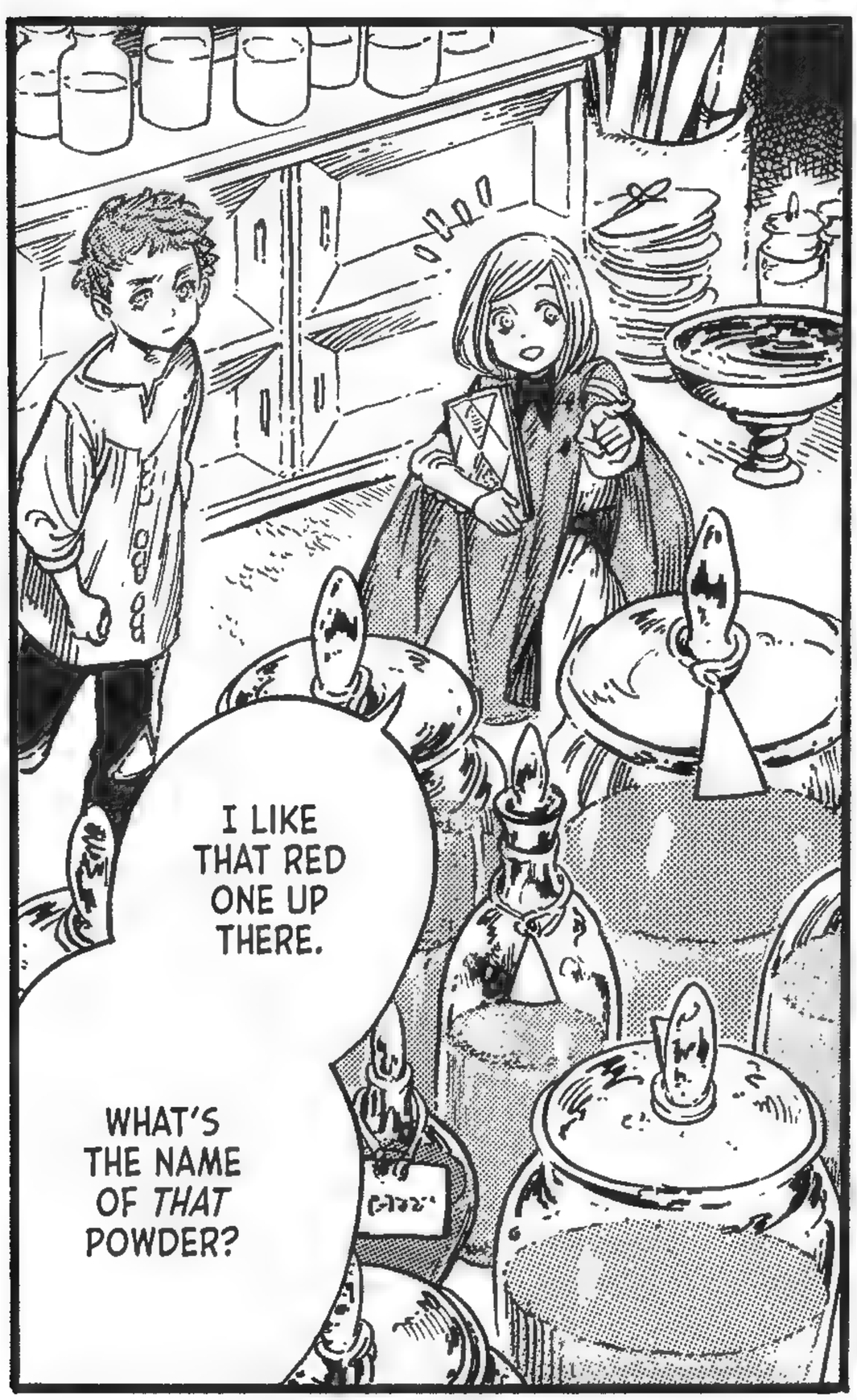
HUH? I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN APPRENTICE, TOO.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? LIVING AT AN ATELIER IS *WAY* BETTER.

YOU'VE GOT SOME WEIRD IDEAS FOR A WITCH.

ギュッ
CLENCH.

I'M, UM...


I LIKE THAT RED ONE UP THERE.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF *THAT* POWDER?

OOH!
I NEED IT BACK NOW.
ANYWAY! YOU DONE WITH THAT?!

WHICH ONE?

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

THAT ONE! UP ON THE SHELF!

BETWEEN THE SEAFOAM ONE AND THE ONE THE COLOR OF DRIED LEAVES!

JUST *COUNT!* WHICH SHELF? HOW MANY FROM THE LEFT?

?

THE RED ONE. THE COLOR *REALLY* STICKS OUT!

WH

OAA

AAH!

SHINE

THUD

THUD

KER-THUD

THUD

IT REALLY STARTLED ME.

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT WAS THAT *LIGHT?!* IT WAS SO BRIGHT!

ARE YOU *KIDDING?!* THIS IS *AWFUL!*

ヨロ ooo

STUMBLE

THANK GOODNESS NONE OF THE JARS BROKE.

WE HADN'T TIED THEM BACK ON SINCE GRANDPA REARRANGED THE SHELVES.

HE TOLD ME NOT TO MESS ANY OF IT UP. BUT LOOK AT IT NOW!

THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE.* AND THE LABELS HAVE ALL FALLEN OFF.

NO! I *CAN'T,* OKAY?!

OHHH... THE CATALOG ONLY SHOWS A PICTURE OF THE ORIGINAL INGREDIENT.

I'M SORRY! WE CAN PUT THEM BACK! I'LL HELP YOU!

BUT *YOU* KNOW WHICH POWDER IS WHICH, RIGHT TARTAH?!

YOU CAN TELL WHICH COLOR COMES FROM WHICH INGRE—

I MEMORIZED THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR ORDER ON THE SHELVES.

BUT... BUT YOU WERE JUST EXPLAINING —

IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD TELL THE ACTUAL COLORS APART.

HE'LL BE ABLE TO SORT THESE BACK OUT. YOU SHOULD JUST GO HOME.

LOOK. I'M SORRY I SHOUTED. I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO GRANDPA.

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY.

BUT...

...?

WE'VE ALL GOT THINGS WE'RE CAPABLE OF AND THINGS WE'RE NOT.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

...BUT I'D NEVER BE A WITCH BECAUSE OF MY STUPID SILVERWASH.

ME, TOO. I COULD STUDY MY WHOLE LIFE...

OOF...

QIFREY! TALK TO ME!

QIFREY, MY LAD. YOU ALL RIGHT?

I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BAD IDEA!

YOU SEE?!

...THERE'S A FRAGMENT OF GLASS INSIDE. ONE WITH A TINY SEAL ON IT.

DISPARATE BOTTLES, SHARED CONTENTS. I'D WAGER...

IT MUST BE A TWINNED BOTTLE SPELL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW STRONG THAT LIGHT WAS. THE SEAL I DREW WAS *TINY*.

AND THEY INTENDED TO HAVE COCO DRAW WITH THAT INK.

EACH TIME SHE DIPPED HER PEN, THE LIQUID WAS REPLACED WITH SOME UNKNOWN MIXTURE!

FINALLY! I *FINALLY* HAVE THE LEAD I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

BUT THAT ALSO MEANS THIS BOTTLE IS LINKED TO THEM.

WHAT IN BLAZES...

STAGGER

TH-THIS GOES BEYOND ME.

WE NEED TO GET THAT TO THE GREAT HALL!

NO! WE MUSTN'T!

INK LIKE THAT DON'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD!

YOU'RE TELLING ME IT DREW POWER LIKE *THAT* FROM A TINY, SCRAWLED SEAL?!

NOT TO ANYONE!

WE MUSTN'T EVEN *SPEAK* OF WHAT WE'VE DISCOVERED.

I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ORDER *OR* THE GREAT HALL!

LISTEN TO YOURSELF.

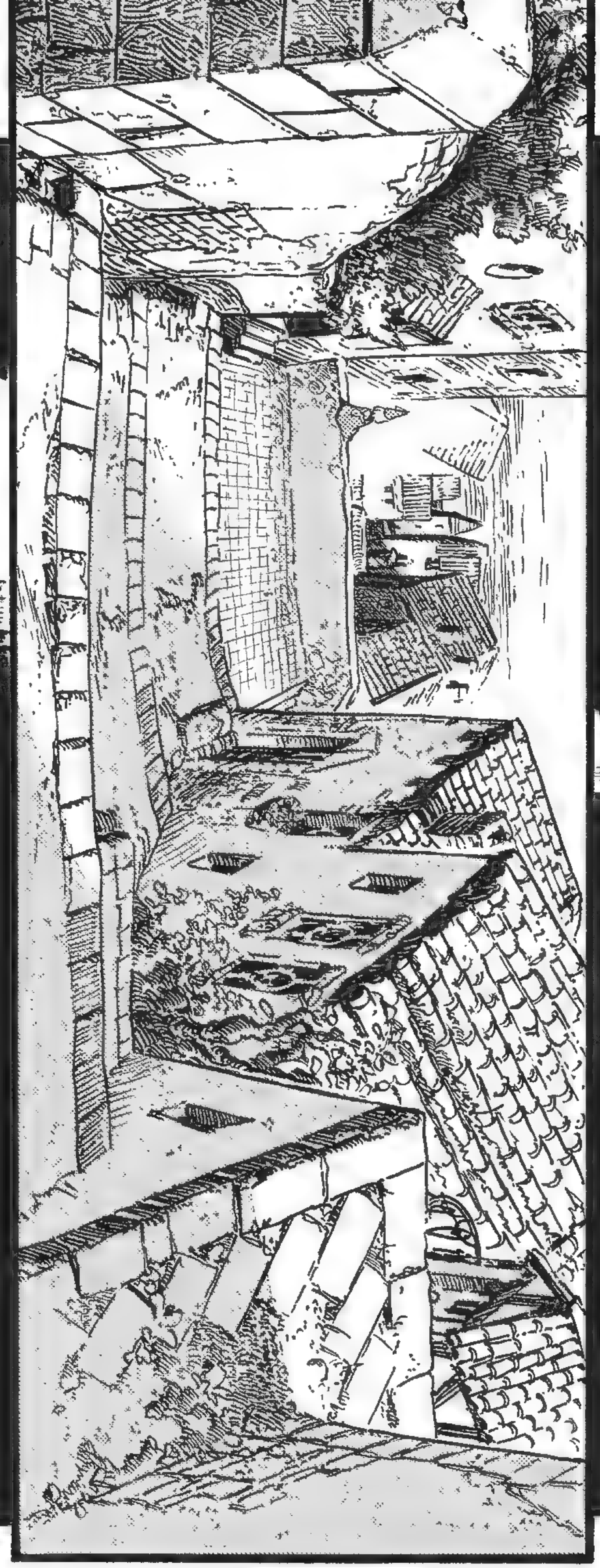
OH, QIFREY...

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?!

BY ALL THAT'S GOOD...

...WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THAT INK?!

SHRINK



CLINK
I'M SORRY, MISTER NOLNOA.
I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

HEY THERE, COCO.

WITCH'S BELT

A USEFUL BELT FOR HANGING ONE'S WAND AND INKPOT. ALSO INCLUDES A CLIP TO ATTACH A PALM QUIRE ON THE DOMINANT HAND'S SIDE.

TURNS OUT THAT LITTLE INKPOT WAS A *VERY* EXPENSIVE ITEM. IT WAS GIVEN TO YOU ON ACCIDENT.

I BOUGHT YOU THIS WITCH'S BELT TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

!

MASTER...

...WHAT'S "SILVERWASH"?

SILVERWASH SYNDROME...

...IS AN AFFLICTION OF THE EYES, COCO.

IT'S A CONDITION FROM BIRTH...

...THAT CAUSES THE WORLD TO APPEAR BATHED IN SILVER.

I IMAGINE OURS MUST BE A TOUGH WORLD FOR HIM TO LIVE IN.

REFUSAL TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENCES IS NOT AN ADMIRABLE QUALITY OF WITCH SOCIETY.

WITCHES TEND TO PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS ON VISUAL ACUITY.

MY DEAR COCO...

...DO NOT LET SUCH MELANCHOLY CLOUD YOUR FACE.

LIFT

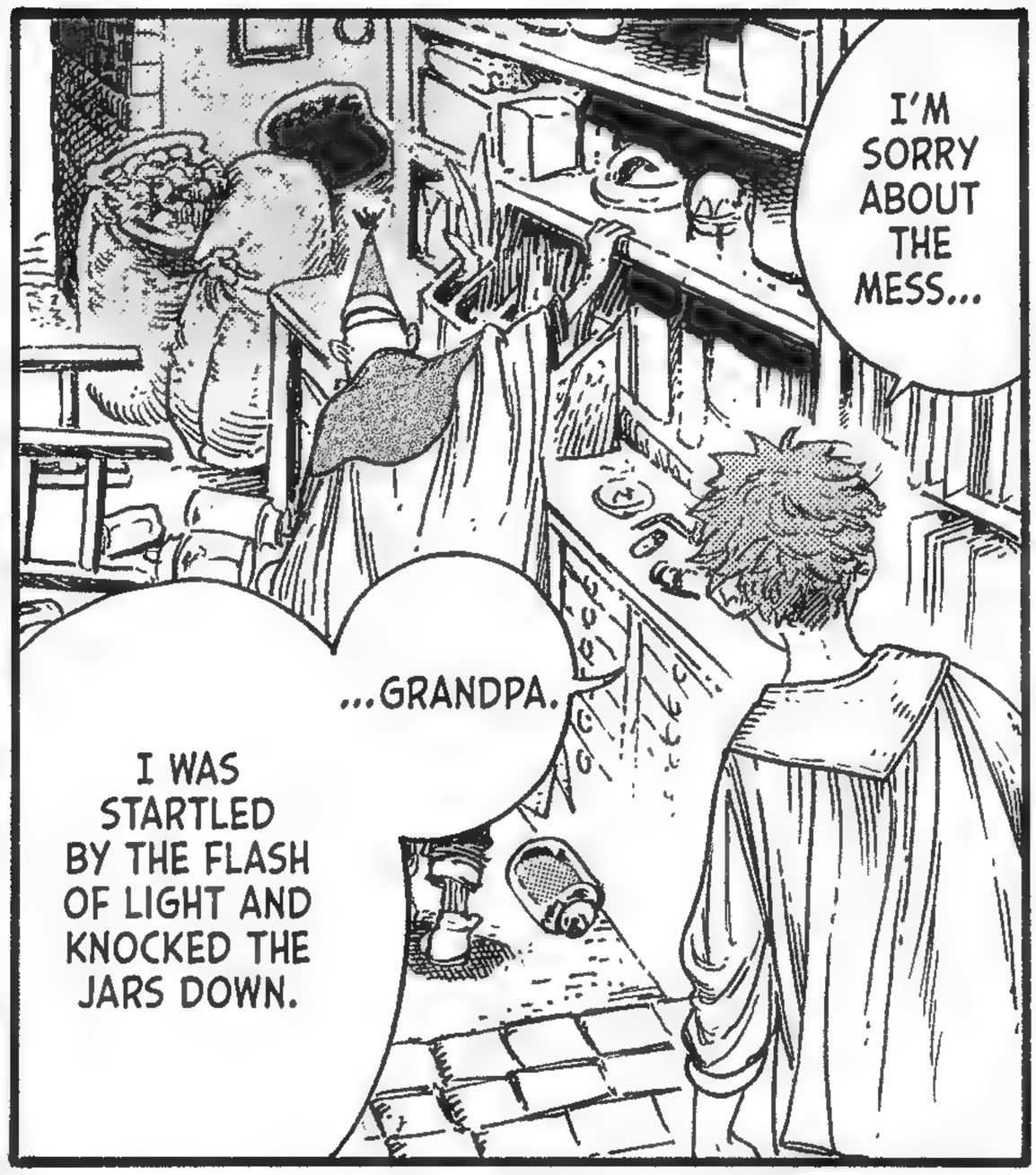
...I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT YOU.

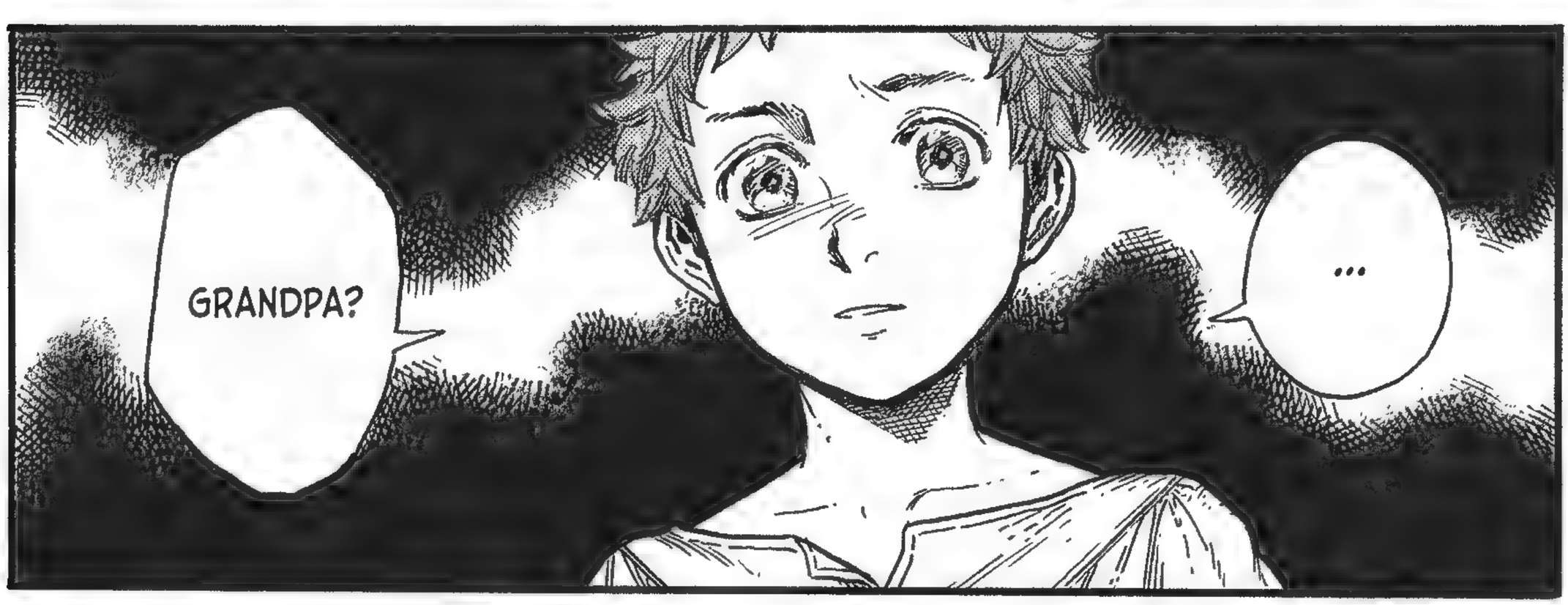
SO LONG AS YOU ARE A STUDENT OF MY ATELIER...

ALL WILL BE WELL.

NOT A SINGLE THING.

SO YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

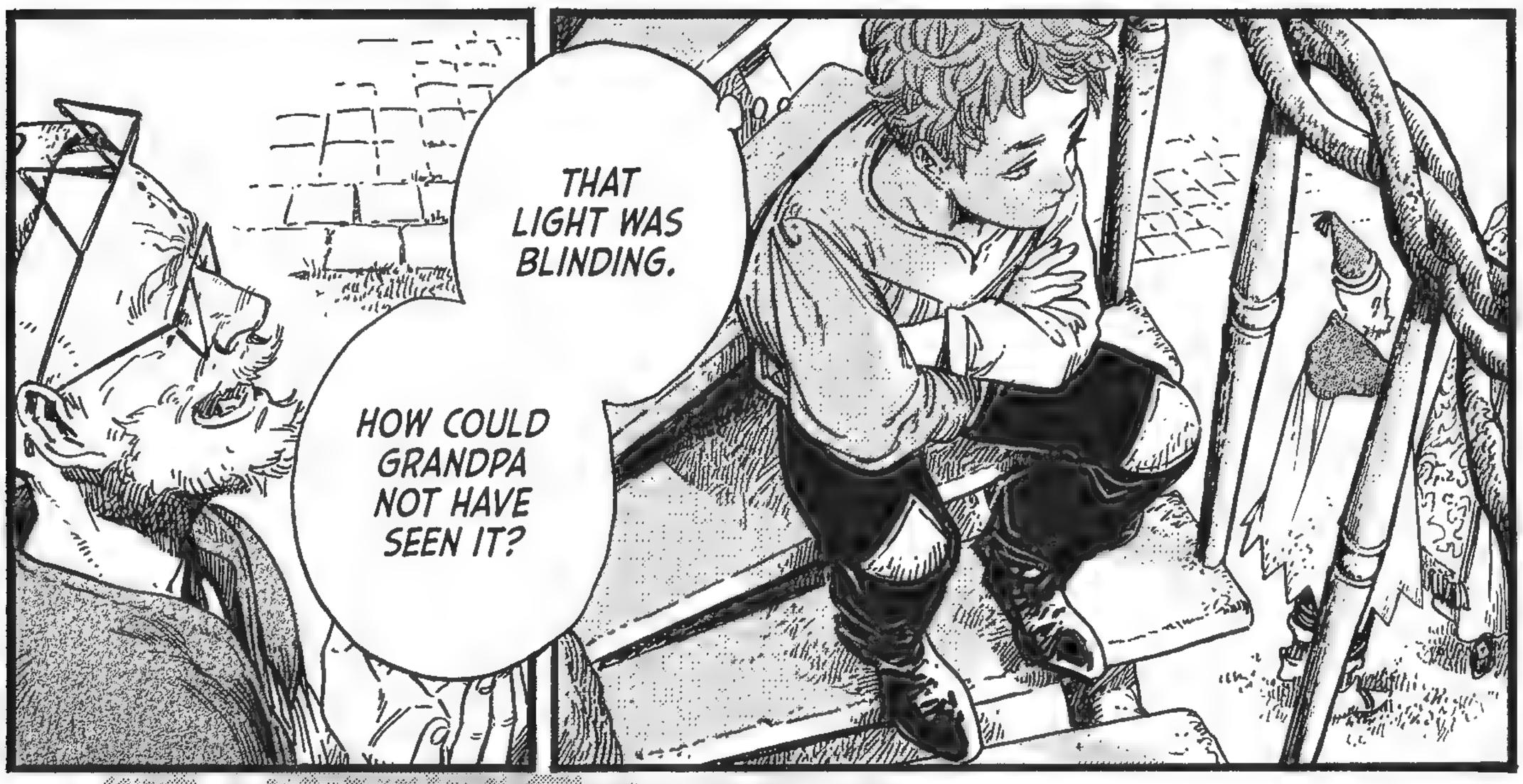




Chapter 13 ♦ End

Witch Hat Atelier

WELCOME, MY DEAR! COME ON IN!


THAT LIGHT WAS BLINDING.
HOW COULD GRANDPA NOT HAVE SEEN IT?

I WONDER IF QIFREY COULD TELL ME WHY GRANDPA DOESN'T REMEMBER.
OR... WHAT IF HE'S THE REASON GRANDPA DOESN'T...?

Chapter 14

S...

SORRY, MASTER!

ペコ BOW

ペコ BOW

ペコ BOW

TWITCH ピク

TWITCH ピク

TWITCH ピク

...

BUT I DREW IT BIG ON *PURPOSE.*

THE FIRST ONE WAS SO SMALL, IT BARELY MADE THE LEAVES FLUTTER.

RUSTLE

SEEMS LIKE THAT GRASPING WIND SEAL...

...MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO *BIG* FOR PLUCKING WILD APPLES.

RIIIIP ゴッパーッ

ヒュオッ
PLUCK

SHWOOP

FWISK
120

FWISK
120

AH.
NOW *THAT'S*
A CLEVER
ADJUSTMENT.

A SPELL
CAN BE ADAPTED
TO ANY SORT OF
SITUATION IF YOU
CAREFULLY ARRANGE
THE SIGNS TO SUIT
YOUR PARTICULAR
GOAL.

HOW ABOUT
PUTTING THE
SIGNS OF
PULLING AT
AN ANGLE?

THINK ABOUT IT.
WHEN YOU PICK
AN APPLE BY
HAND, IT'S EASIER
IF YOU TWIST IT
AT THE STEM.

YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
PROACTIVE
IN YOUR
PRACTICE!

ISN'T
THAT
RIGHT,
MASTER?

THE WHOLE
POINT OF
REPETITION
IS TO IRON
OUT FLAWS!

WHEN
SOMETHING
DOESN'T
WORK...

...THINK ABOUT
WHY IT DIDN'T!
IN FACT, EVEN
WHEN THINGS *DO*
WORK, STOP TO
CONSIDER WHY!

DING!

HRMMMMmmm

!

YOU'RE QUITE THE ABLE TEACHER, MASTER TETIA.

COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER!

PAT

PAT

PAT

I'M A TEACHER!!

MASTER TETIA!! DID YOU HEAR THAT?!

RRRUSTLE

OH, MY! IT'S SIMPLY TOO MUCH!

BUT SAY IT AGAIN! *SAY IT AGAIN!!*

HOORAY

HOORAY

SN

AP

SH-

WOOP

IF YOU KNOW HOW FAR YOU STILL HAVE TO GO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO PRIORITIZE YOUR *OWN* STUDIES.

HMPH. DO YOU REALLY HAVE TIME TO BE ADVISING OTHERS?

THAT WAS *NOT* MEANT TO PULL *YOU TWO* OVER HERE!

I'M *FAR* TOO BUSY PREPARING FOR MY TEST TO PLAY AROUND!

ACK!!

What a nice, easygoing day.

Hah hah hah!

Whee!

Hooray!

Ahaha!

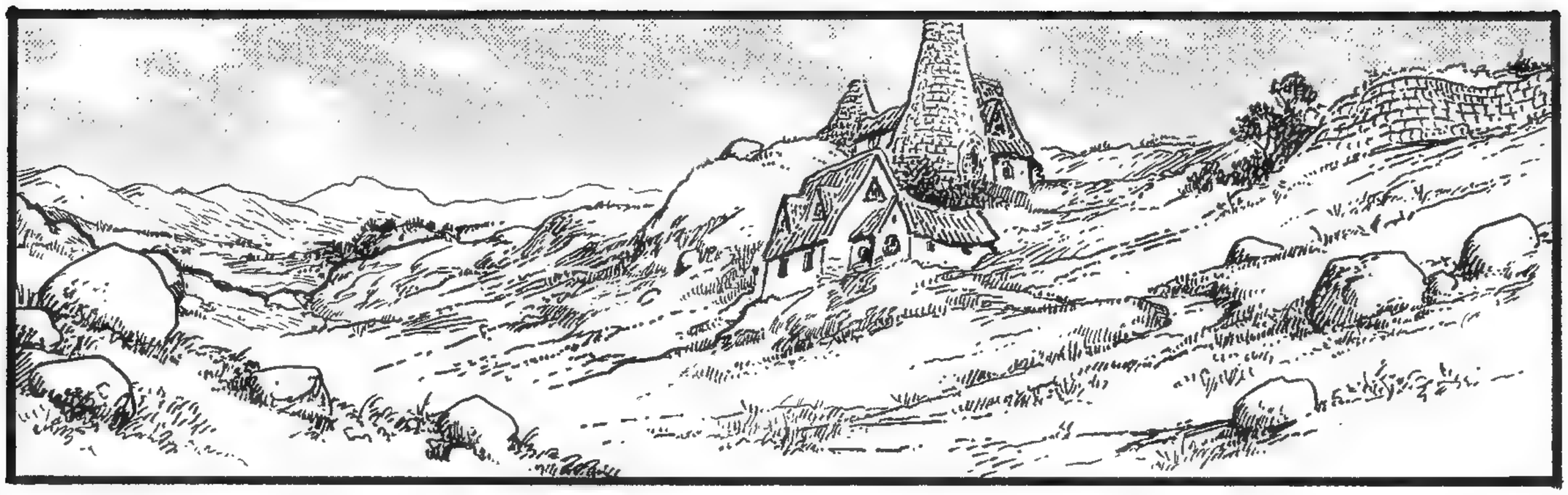
GRIN

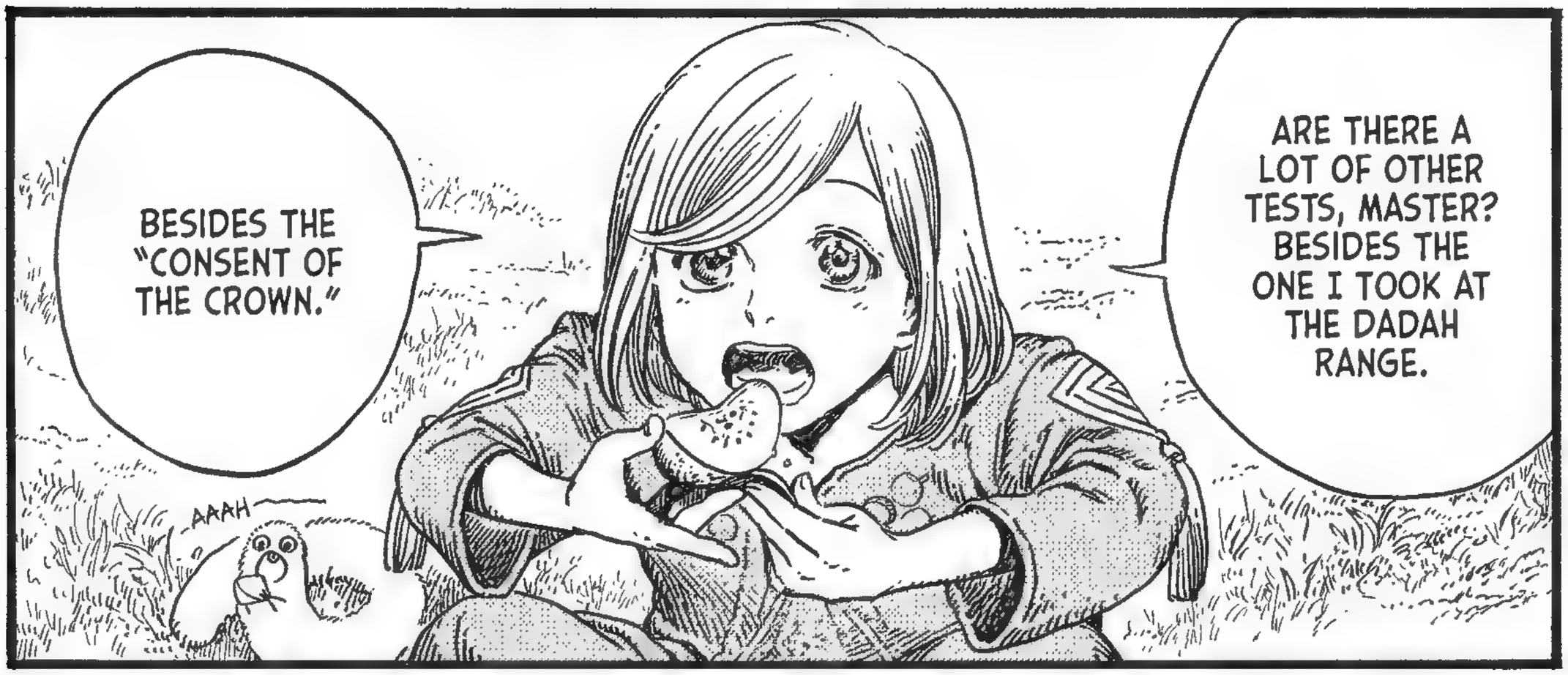
...

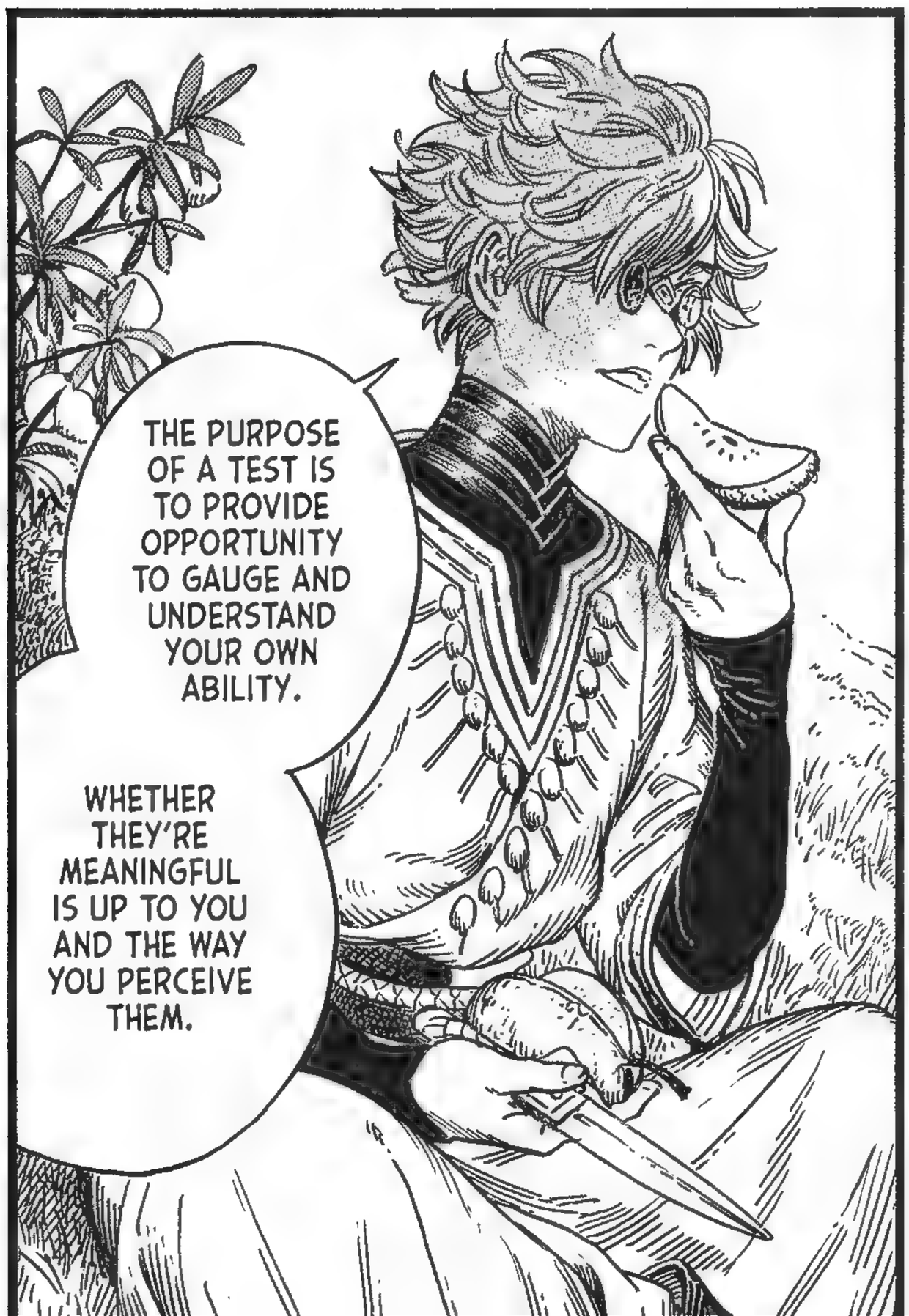
HUH?!

SURE! PRACTICE! *YOU* CAN SHOW US SOME EXAMPLES!

DASH




BESIDES THE "CONSENT OF THE CROWN."
AAAH
ARE THERE A LOT OF OTHER TESTS, MASTER? BESIDES THE ONE I TOOK AT THE DADAH RANGE.


THE PURPOSE OF A TEST IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE AND UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN ABILITY.
WHETHER THEY'RE MEANINGFUL IS UP TO YOU AND THE WAY YOU PERCEIVE THEM.

YEAH.
FIVE OF THEM. *FIVE* WHOLE DUMB, POINTLESS TESTS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU NEED THEM TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW.
お POUT

APPARENTLY, THE WITCHES OF OLD HAD THE SAME TROUBLES.

I'm not having fun!

This is boring!

OH, DEAR ME...

No more...

I'm so tiiired.

Studying is the worst!

No more tests! I hate them!

OF COURSE, IT'S HARD TO FIND ENJOYMENT IN A TEST...

...THAT YOU'RE NOT TAKING ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE.

THAT'S WHY THE THREE WISE ONES DECIDED...

IF WE CAUSE APPRENTICES TO SUFFER, WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF THAT PURPOSE.

MAGIC EXISTS TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.

...TO COME UP WITH A SET OF TESTS APPRENTICES WOULD *WANT* TO TAKE!

A SET OF ADVENTURES IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

RUSTLE

UNFURL

"THE TEACHINGS NOW COME FROM THEE." THESE ARE THE FIVE TESTS OF THE WITCH'S PENTACLE OF PROVING.

TAP!

I SEE. SO FIRST YOU BECOME AN APPRENTICE...

1 RIGHT TO CHOOSE YOUR TEACHER

2 PERMISSION TO CAST SPELLS IN PUBLIC

3 APPROVAL TO ATTEMPT THE LIBRARIANS' TRIAL

4 GRADUATION FROM YOUR TEACHER'S SIDE

5 ABILITY TO TAKE ON APPRENTICES OF YOUR OWN

...AND THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE APPRENTICES OF THEIR OWN CONTINUE TO HERE...

I've come this far.

...AND THOSE WHO DON'T WISH TO DO SO CAN STOP HERE.

And I went up to here.

AS YOU PROGRESS THROUGH THE LEVELS, THE RANGE OF WORK YOU ARE ALLOWED TO PERFORM WITH YOUR MAGIC INCREASES.

ON COMPLETING "THE GOODWILL OF HER GRACE," YOU GRADUATE FROM YOUR TEACHER'S ATELIER AND ARE RECOGNIZED AS A WITCH IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.

AND ON COMPLETION OF "THE QUERY OF THE QUI VIVE," YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE TO ATTEMPT THE LIBRARIANS' TRIAL.

THE LIBRARIANS' TRIAL...

"SECURE CONSENT AND BECOME AN APPRENTICE."

THE FIRST TEST: THE CONSENT OF THE CROWN

"DEMONSTRATE YOUR DEVOTION TO WALK ASIDE YOUR TEACHER."

THE SECOND TEST: THE SINCERITY OF THE SHIELD

"THE KEY SHALL COME TO ONE WHOSE PATH IS RIGHT."

THE THIRD TEST: THE QUERY OF THE QUI VIVE

"ONE STANDS UNAIDED WHEN HOPE IS REALIZED."

THE FOURTH TEST: THE GOODWILL OF HER GRACE

THE FIFTH TEST: THE WORDS OF THE WISE

THE PENTACLE OF PROVING

ZOZAH PENINSULA— THE LAND OF THE PACT

OF COURSE, THE LAST TEST IS JUST FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO TAKE ON APPRENTICES. AND YOU'VE A LONG WAY BEFORE YOU NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT GRADUATION.

ARE YOU KIDDING ?!

...IT WAS SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE SEA.

THAT ONE LOOKED LIKE...

I THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M GONNA DO AFTER GRADUATION *ALL THE TIME!*

ZUSAA SPRAWL

I WANT TO HEAR WHAT WORDS OF THANKS SOUND LIKE IN EVERY LANGUAGE AROUND THE WORLD.

I'M GONNA JOURNEY FAAAR AWAY AND USE MY MAGIC TO HELP ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE.

TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE! TWO NEEDS WITH ONE DEED! HAPPINESS ARRIVES MADE UP IN PIGTAILS!

...AND THE OTHER BEING THANKED.

LIKE THIS. ONE PERSON THANKING ...

HAPPINESS FOR TWO FROM A SINGLE SPELL!

IT DOESN'T GET any BETTER THAN THAT, DOES IT?

WELL, SHE IS RIGHT THAT YOU GET TO DESIGN YOUR OWN CAP WHEN YOU BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED WITCH.

I NEVER REALIZED THERE WAS SO MUCH *MEANING* BEHIND YOUR HAIRSTYLE!

I'M GONNA DESIGN MY OUTFIT WITH A SPECIAL CAP THAT HAS *TWO* POINTS!

SO I JUST CAN'T *WAIT* TO GROW UP!

But I think our caps are pretty cute as they are.

...will look so cute on me!

A fancy witch hat like that...

I *DESPISE* TESTS.

!

ZSH

I HATE BEING TOLD BY SOMEONE ELSE...

...TO DRAW SOME SPELL I DON'T WANNA DRAW.

CLOMP

CLOMP

CLOMP

THEY'RE STUPID AND I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THEM.

BUT IF YOU ONLY EVER DRAW SPELLS YOU LIKE...

...YOU'LL NEVER LEARN TO CAST ANYTHING NEW.

SO WHAT? I DON'T CARE.

I'M GOING INSIDE.

TMP TMP TMP AAA...

IF BEING A PROPER GROWN-UP MEANS HAVING TO DO STUFF YOU DON'T WANNA DO...

OH, RICHEH...

I...

...THEN I'D RATHER STAY JUST THE WAY I AM.

I'M GONNA TAKE ALL OF THE TESTS AS SOON AS I CAN.

...LIVING WITH ALL THE THINGS I'M STILL UNABLE TO DO.

...COULDN'T *STAND* IT IF I HAD TO STAY THE WAY I AM NOW...

!

AND SOMEDAY...

...I'M GONNA BE A LIBRARIAN AT THE TOWER OF TOMES.

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY ALWAYS SERVES AS A LIBRARIAN.

WHISPER

AGOTT COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF WITCHES. HER FAMILY TRACES ALL THE WAY BACK TO ONE OF THE APPRENTICES WHO CARRIED ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE THREE WISE ONES.

IN FACT, I'D BE HAPPY IF I COULD GROW UP RIGHT *NOW!*

CLENCH

IT'S CALLED THE, UM... THE HOUSE OF ARKLAUM.

Lemme see...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, COCO?

I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'VE BOTH GOT OUR SIGHTS SET ON THE TOWER OF TOMES.

WHAT KIND OF WITCH DO *YOU* WANT TO BECOME?

WELL... I STARTED FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN YOU THREE.

THE THINGS I HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DECIDED FOR ME.

YOU CAN DO IT!

ALL RIGHT! I'M READY TO GIVE THAT GRASPING WIND ANOTHER SHOT!

LET'S DO THIS!

Ugh. Such children.

Yeah!!

DRAW SO THAT YOU MAY REMEMBER.

REMEMBER SO THAT YOU MAY USE.

THE POWER YOU IMBUE YOURSELF THUS...

IF I START THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I HAVE TO GET DONE, THE LIST WILL NEVER END.

SO FOR NOW, I GUESS I'LL JUST FOCUS ON LEARNING TO USE MORE AND MORE SPELLS!

...WILL PROVE AN ALLY THAT NEVER BETRAYS.

WHEN DID IT GET SO DARK? IS IT NIGHT OUT ALREADY?

COCO...

YOO-HOO... COCO...

WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

HUH?

OH, COCO...!

!

MOMMY!

SEE? I TOLD YOU.

KRRKKKK

!

OH, MOM, I'M SO SORRY!

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!

I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU.

I JUST GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN MAGIC.

パキキ

パキキ

MAGIC'S NOT MEANT FOR *NORMAL* PEOPLE.

IGNORANT *OUTSIDER.*

?!

SPLASH

ぱしゃん

M-MOM?!

ALL THOSE THINGS ARE YOUR FAULT, COCO.

...TO PUT US ALL IN DANGER? DIDN'T MEAN TO TURN YOUR MOTHER INTO STONE?

DIDN'T MEAN TO, HUH? JUST LIKE YOU DIDN'T MEAN...

THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

WE'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BRIMMED CAPS HERE.

WE'VE ALL GOT THINGS WE'RE CAPABLE OF AND THINGS WE'RE NOT.

THAT'S WHY IT'S KEPT SECRET. TO PREVENT THINGS LIKE *THIS*.

!!

HELP!

SPLUSH

GASP!

ALL THE TRAGEDIES THAT OCCUR— THEY'RE ON *YOUR* SHOULDERS.

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR CHASING AFTER MAGIC.

KRSHK

AND WHEN THE WORLD FALLS APART, THAT BURDEN WILL BE YOURS AS WELL!

Haah.
Haah.
Haah.
Haah.
Haaah.
CLASP

SLIDE

!

KA-KLAK

YEAH...

COULDN'T SLEEP.

HMPH. IS THAT SO?

I SEE YOU'RE STILL AWAKE, TOO.

HOW MUCH MORE WILL I NEED TO LEARN...

DRAW SO THAT I MAY REMEMBER.

REMEMBER SO THAT I MAY USE.

...BEFORE I'M ABLE TO SAVE MY MOTHER?

SKR

SHIFT

FLUTTER

OH, HOW I HAVE WAITED...

...LONGING...

...LONGING FOR THIS DAY TO COME.

Chapter 14 ♦ End

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 15

...WERE THE RIGHTEOUS WITCHES OF HEALINGCRAFT, WHO ONLY WISHED TO USE THEIR SPELLS TO CURE.

THE LAST TO RESIST THE WISE ONES' EDICT THAT MAGIC SHOULD NOT BE CAST UPON THE BODY...

A MARVEL OF WITCH-CRAFT THAT VANISHED ALONG WITH THEIR MEMORIES.

THE MAGIC OF THE TWINNED BOTTLES WAS DEVISED BY THOSE HEALERS AS A WAY TO SHARE THEIR POTIONS—

THUS THE WITCHES ENSURED THAT NONE WOULD BE WITHOUT AN ESSENTIAL TONIC AT A TIME OF NEED.

...NO MATTER THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM.

A SMALL MEDALLION INSIDE EACH BOTTLE KEPT THE VESSELS' CONTENTS EVENLY SPLIT...

OH, HOW I ADMIRE YOUR BEAUTY. BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST TAKE YOU APART...

...FOR IT IS THE ONLY MEANS I HAVE TO FIND THEM.

CLINK

CLINK

WHAT IRONY THAT ONLY THE BRIMMED CAPS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE IT TODAY.

IT IS AN ANCIENT CONTRAPTION OF MEDICINE. A FEAT OF PRECISION. A MAGIC NOT SEEN SINCE THE DAY OF THE PACT.

BUT WILL I BE ABLE TO REMOVE IT WITHOUT DISCOVERY BY THE OWNER OF ITS TWIN?

IT IS THE ETCHED MEDALLION HIDING INSIDE THAT I MUST SECURE.

THE INK I SHALL LEAVE FOR NOW. ITS UNKNOWN POWERS POSE TOO GREAT A RISK.

THE SOURCE OF ITS MATERIALS. THE PLACE IT WAS FASHIONED. EVEN ITS OWNER.

PLACED INSIDE A GUIDANCE ORB...

...IT WILL POINT THE WAY TO EVERY DETAIL IT REPRESENTS.

THE SEAL INSIDE BELONGS TO THEM.

KRAKKLE

KRAKKLE

KRAKKLE

SNAP

A TINY CLUE TO LEAD ME TO...

...THE NEXT, GREATER HINT OF WHERE THEY HIDE THEMSELVES!

TINK!

KRSH
KRSH
KRSH
SKRX
BOLTS OF LIGHTNING!
THEY'VE NOTICED ALREADY!
GRAB!!
XXXXX
KLINK
OH, NO.
WATER.
BLUP
GLUP GLUP
...

SP

LUSH

SQUI

UEEZE

SWWSSHHH

I WAS UN-PREPARED! I'M SUCH A FOOL.

KRACK

KRK

KRK

KRK

AS LONG AS I'M UNDERWATER, MAGIC IS USELESS!

BLUB

BLUB

SHW

!!

VWWSHHH

SHHWWW

PL ISH

KOFF

KOFF

SNATCH =!

KOFF

...THE EYEBALL!

YOU'RE... THE ONE!

CR

USH

I'M NOT DONE WITH—

W...

WAIT.

POOF

SLUMP

CURSE IT ALL!

I WILL *NOT* GIVE UP!

CLENCH

...WHAT YOU'VE TAKEN FROM ME!

I SWEAR I'LL GET BACK...

AHH...

WHAT A WASTE.

AFTER ALL THAT TROUBLE TO SEE IT INTO THE HANDS OF THE CHILD...

POOF

SNA

TCH!

YAAAAWN...

Now why *yawn* would we do that?

DID YOU TWO STAY UP ALL NIGHT?

Yaaawn

SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU'VE BEEN YAWING ALL DAY.

WHOA! YOUR YAWNS WERE IN PERFECT SYNC!

EVERY NIGHT, YOU TWO TRANSFORM INTO MYSTICAL KNIGHTS AND—*SWISH-SWISH*—FIGHT OFF BAD GUYS ATTACKING THE ATELIER!

WAIT! I'VE GOT IT!

TRANSFORMATIONS ARE FORBIDDEN, REMEMBER?

...IF YOU'RE SO TIRED YOU CAN'T STOP YAWNING...

AT ANY RATE...

...IT MEANS YOU NEED TO GET MORE SLEEP.

Awww!

But that's how it always goes in the plays about witches of old!

HEH...

THESE PAST FEW DAYS...

... YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT IN STUDY.

WHAT?!

AH HA HA!

I-IT'S JUST THAT MY PEN FEELS SO *INSPIRED* LATE AT NIGHT!

NO, COCO! THAT'S NO GOOD!

I'm serious about this.

You hear me?

MASTER OLLY SAYS SO, TOO.

SKIMP ON SLEEP AS A KID, AND YOU'RE IN FOR A WORLD OF PROBLEMS AS AN ADULT.

SEE?

I GET THAT SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANNA STUDY, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS!

"GOOD MAGIC COMES FROM A RESTED MIND."

AND A WELL-FED ONE.

WHIRL ワルン!

YOU WANT SOME, TOO, MASTER?

I'LL MAKE YOU SOME ERBE TEA THAT'LL HELP YOU SLEEP!

SEE? A *WORLD* OF PROBLEMS.

SORRY! WHAT WAS THAT?!

EEP!

CLATTER ガラン!

Here's an example of how you don't wanna be.

NGH...

...MASTER?

OUCH!

!

KRASH

SLIP

...

HAHA.
FORGIVE ME.
MY MIND STARTED
TO WANDER AFTER
WE FINISHED
OUR MEAL.

I'LL PUT
THE TEA
ON.

THE
NUMBNESS
FROM
YESTERDAY
STILL HASN'T
SUBSIDED.

I'M
FINE.

YES...

MASTER? ARE
YOU REALLY
ALL RIGHT?

I'LL GO OUTSIDE AND PICK US A FEW MORE LEAVES.

The mess can wait until I get back.

YOU ALL STAY HERE AND WORK ON YOUR PRIMERS.

I'M AFRAID I'VE WASTED OUR LAST BIT OF ERBE TEA, THOUGH.

HEH HEH!

TH-THUMP THUMP

Ack!

P-TMP!

...

OH. HEY, AGOTT...

BEHOLD THE TERROR OF SLEEP DEPRIVATION.

MASTER SURE IS ACTING *STRANGE* TODAY.

!

...HAVE YOU GOT A MOMENT?

...

HERE. I WANTED TO GIVE THESE BACK.

SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO RETURN THEM.

I TOLD MYSELF I HAD TO DRAW THE SEALS PROPERLY BEFORE I COULD GIVE THEM BACK...

MY SYLPH SHOES!

...

UM...

YEAH.

IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE WORKING ON LAST NIGHT?

BUT I'M STILL NOT AS GOOD AS YOU GUYS.

IF THEY'RE HARD TO FLY WITH, I WON'T MIND IF YOU REDRAW THE SEALS.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

...BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ON ME TO MASTER QIFREY.

I PUSHED YOU INTO TAKING THE TEST BEFORE YOU WERE READY...

...EVER SINCE THE DAY YOU TOOK THE CONSENT OF THE CROWN.

IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME...

INSTEAD, YOU DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT...

...AND THEN WENT AND FIXED MY *SHOES* FOR ME.

YOU COULD HAVE SPOKEN TO OUR WATCHFUL EYE, TOO, IF YOU'D WANTED.

I CAN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD.

WHY?

THAT DAY, WHEN YOU PUSHED ME OUT THERE...

...I FELT SCARED AND ALONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

...I WALKED TO THE BASE OF THOSE MOUNTAINS...

...AND DECIDED TO TRY. THAT WAS MY CHOICE.

BUT INSTEAD ...

I COULD HAVE SAT THERE, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO COME.

...AND THAT I WASN'T SCARED. THOSE FEELINGS CAME FROM WITHIN.

"HERE'S MY PROOF. THIS MEANS I DID IT, RIGHT?"

...TO PROVE THAT I COULD DO IT...

I WANTED ...

I HAD TO SHOW MYSELF THAT I COULD BEAT MY PROBLEMS...

...WITH MY OWN MAGIC AND FIND SOME SHRED OF HOPE.

SQUEEZE

SO... WHAT, THEN?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT *I'M* THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN BOTHERED THIS WHOLE TIME?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT—

WOBBLE

'CAUSE IF I COULDN'T ...

!

GASP

COCO!!

FWUMP

FLEX
HO,

FLEX
HO,

THE FEELING HAS RETURNED.

GOOD.

PTOO!

...

NMPH

NMPH

PWF
HO!

PWF
HO!

THOSE FOUR ARE SHARP. THEY MIGHT HAVE PICKED UP ON SOMETHING.

I HOPE THE GIRLS DIDN'T NOTICE.

YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING, RIGHT, PUFFPUFF?

I ABSOLUTELY *MUST* KEEP WHAT HAPPENED UNDER WRAPS.

IF THE SECRET GETS OUT, IT'S ALL OVER.

SH-

SHH-

MASTER!

THAT BAD, HUH?

COME ON. I THINK IT'S RATHER CUTE. "PUFFPUFF."

PWEE!

HAH! LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T CARE FOR THAT NAME.

PWEE! PWEE!

SHHHHWW

WW

WHAM

ドッ THMP

ドッ THMP

ゴロゴロゴロ ROLL ROLL ROLL

FSHH

FSHHH

SKKRT

IT'S THE SIGNS ON MY HEELS!

THEY'RE TOO LONG, SO THE SEAL'S BALANCE IS ALL WRONG!

GOODNESS, AGOTT! YOU STARTLED ME!

HOW FAST WERE YOU *GOING?!*

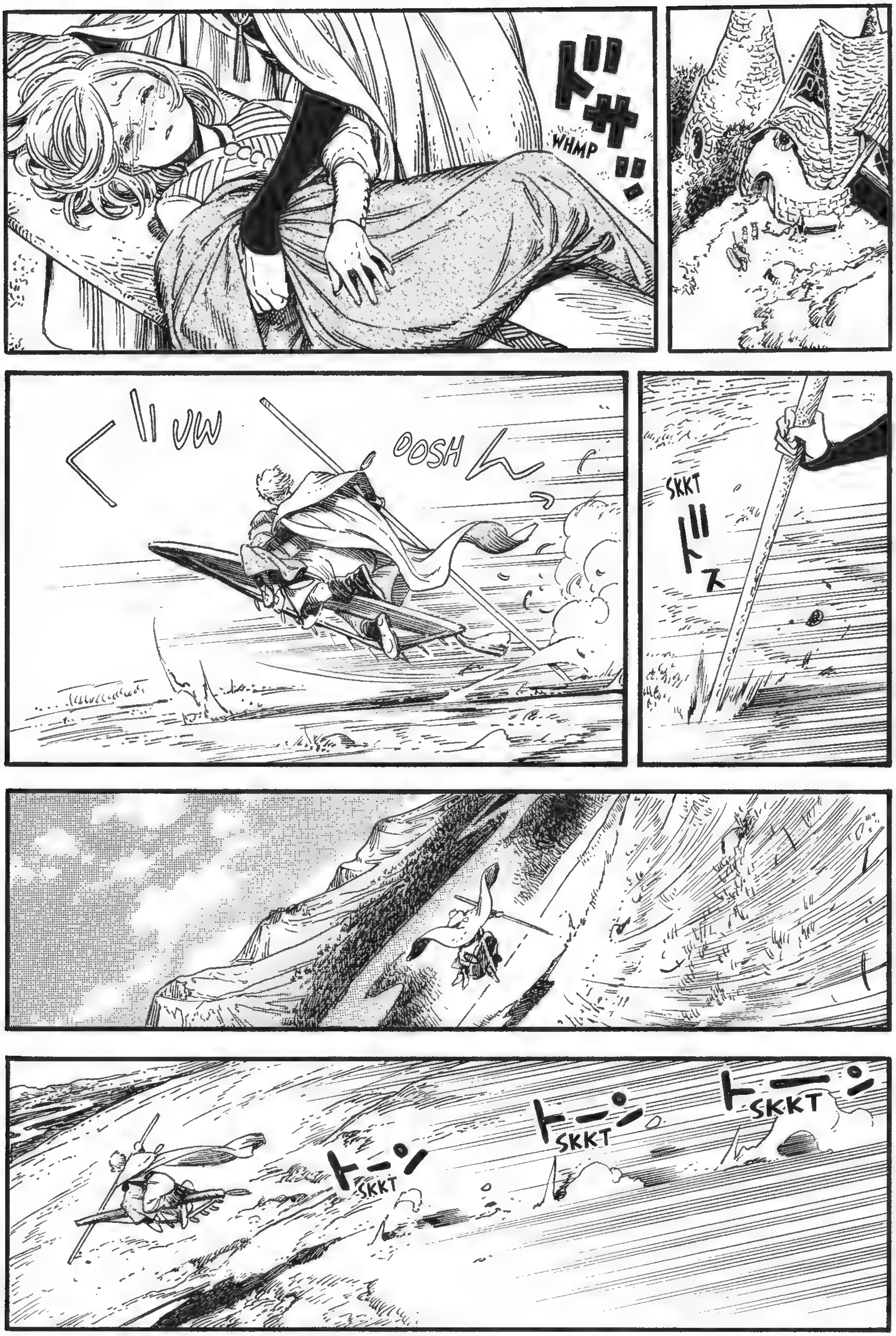
WHAT?!

THERE'S NO TIME! YOU HAVE TO GET BACK!

IT'S COCO! SHE'S...!

What an intriguing effect!

FASCINATING! MAY I TAKE A LOOK?


ドサッ
WHMP
WW
OOSH
SKKT
トーン
SKKT
トーン
SKKT
トーン
SKKT

HER FEVER IS GETTING WORSE.

SHE NEEDS A DOCTOR **NOW!**

HANG IN THERE, COCO!

THE HOSPITAL IN KALHN'S JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!

I GOTTA CATCH THE FERRY.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU LIVE OUT ON THE ISLAND.

SORRY, GUYS.

HUH? GOING HOME ALREADY, TARTAH?

SERIOUSLY!

BUT, WAIT... WHY THE FERRY? YOU'RE A WITCH! WHY NOT JUST FLY HOME?

SEE YA!

SEE YA TOMOR-ROW!

BOOOR-ING!

...

JUST... WHATEVER. THERE ARE RULES AND STUFF.

...SURE LIKE TO TALK AS IF THEY DO.

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE A CLUE...

!

I'D BE HAPPY TO FLY HOME...

...IF I COULD.

OH! TARTAH!

WHOA!

HUH?

MISTER QIFREY?

PLEASE! I ONLY KNOW THE ISLAND. I'M RARELY ON THIS SIDE OF TOWN.

TELL ME, IS THIS IS THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL?!

THANK GOOD-NESS!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING H—

COME ON! I KNOW A SHORTCUT!

YEAH! THE HOSPITAL'S THIS WAY!

!!

HFF

HFF

THANK YOU, TARTAH!

WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN.

PLEASE SEE THAT SHE GETS WELL!

PLEASE WAIT THERE. WE'LL NEED SOME TIME.

JOLT

B-DMP

WE'RE FORTUNATE YOU KNEW OF THAT SHORTCUT.

YOU'VE BEEN AN ENORMOUS HELP TODAY, TARTAH.

GLANCE

HFF

HFF

HFF

PLEASE ...

PLEASE LET HER BE OKAY.

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

PANT

PANT

PANT

YOU'VE GOT SHARP EYES.

PERHAPS YOU'RE ACCUSTOMED TO PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION TO THINGS THAN THE REST OF US.

GRIP

UM...

M-MISTER QIFREY...

!

...I NEED TO ASK YOU.

THERE'S SOME-THING...

Witch Hat Atelier

I NEED TO...

I...

UM...

...KNOW ABOUT SOME-THING.

...

OH, TARTAH ...

Chapter 16

HUH?!

?!

...WHAT A DELIGHT TO HEAR!

ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANYTHING!

CROUCH

ふわんっ

I LOVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS...

...ABOUT MAGIC! FROM ANYONE! NOT JUST MY APPRENTICES!

SO TELL ME, TARTAH! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN?

HUH?!

EXCUSE ME. YOU BROUGHT THE GIRL, RIGHT?

PLEASE COME WITH ME.

ARGH! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM...

...THAT IT'S NOT THAT TYPE OF QUESTION! HE LOOKS SO EXCITED!

GAAAH!

I know that look! Those are the eyes of youth, thirsting for knowledge!

NGHH!

IT'S A SIMPLE COLD. PROBABLY BROUGHT ON BY FATIGUE AND LACK OF SLEEP.

ALL THE SAME, I'D LIKE TO KEEP HER HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

WITH SOME WARM MEALS AND REST, SHE'LL RECOVER.

IT SEEMS SHE'S BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING FOR SOME TIME.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRAINING YOU WITCHES PUT YOURSELVES THROUGH, AND I WON'T ASK...

...BUT SHE'S JUST A CHILD.

HONESTLY ...

THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

WELL SAID, DOCTOR.

COCO... I'M SORRY.

THE *ADULTS* IN HER LIFE WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT.

SFFF...

FFFS

WITH ANY LUCK, THIS WILL EASE HER FEVER A BIT.

HFF HFF

FFFHH...

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR BODIES AND MINDS DON'T ALWAYS BEHAVE THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO.

IF SHE WAS HAVING SUCH A TOUGH TIME, YOU THINK SHE'D SLOW DOWN, NOT KEEP GOING UNTIL SHE COLLAPSED.

ON THE SURFACE, SHE MIGHT APPEAR CHEERFUL, BUT I SUSPECT SHE FEELS VERY TROUBLED INSIDE.

NOT MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE COCO'S ABRUPT INTRODUCTION TO OUR WORLD.

!

"ABRUPT INTRODUC-TION"?! DON'T TELL ME...

...SHE'S THE OUTSIDER EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT?!

TARTAH...

I SUPPOSE THIS REALLY ISN'T THE BEST TIME.

...BACK OUTSIDE, YOU SAID YOU HAD A QUESTION FOR ME.

I WONDER IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND WAITING UNTIL ANOTHER DAY.

THANK YOU. TAKE CARE.

WELL, I'M GONNA GET HOME, THEN.

BOW!

OH. YEAH. SURE.

What else am I supposed to say to that?

OR WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

FOR A SECOND, SOMETHING ABOUT HIS EYES SEEMED COLD.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU BELONG ON THE ISLAND? WHERE'S YOUR *POINTY HAT?!*

WHOA! HOLD ON THERE, SON. THIS BOAT'S FOR *WITCHES* ONLY.

LISTEN! I CAME IN ON THIS EXACT BOAT THIS MORNING!

PSHH! NICE STORY. NOW GUESS HOW MANY OTHER BRATS HAVE TRIED TO SNEAK ONTO THE ISLAND LIKE THAT?

HUH?! IT'S GONE!

MY CAP'S RIGHT...

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW ANYONE ON BOARD WITHOUT *PROOF* THAT THEY'RE A WITCH.

HEY! YOU GET BACK HERE!

LEAN

지

지

이

ㅣ

SO QUIT TRYING TO PULL ONE OVER ON THE NEW GUY!

BEATS ME WHY THEY'RE SO SELECTIVE OVER THERE, BUT IF ANYONE UNWANTED SHOWS UP...

...*I'M* THE ONE WHO TAKES THE BLAME!

I'VE GOTTA FIND IT!

CAN'T GO HOME WITHOUT MY CAP.

GOOD TO HEAR.

I THINK SHE'LL BE FINE IF SHE CONTINUES TO REST LIKE THIS.

IT LOOKS LIKE HER BREATHING HAS CALMED.

I MUST SAY, THOUGH...

THE AIR AROUND HERE CERTAINLY DOES FEEL COOLER THAN THE REST OF THE HOSPITAL. IT'S REFRESHING.

DOCTORS ARE JUST AS MARVELOUS.

MAGIC IS A MARVEL.

MAGIC CAN'T DO MUCH TO HEAL BEYOND THIS.

KDNK

YES. IT CERTAINLY WOULD.

...

EVEN SO, THIS *IS* ONE TOOL TO AID RECOVERY.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF IT, TOO.

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

THMP

THMP

ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE ON DUTY TONIGHT?! HURRY! I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME!

DOCTORS! ARE THERE ANY DOCTORS HERE?!

KDNk!!

DRIFT

!

WE'RE TRYIN' TO TREAT THE INJURED, BUT THAT SORRY BUNCHA DRUNKS IS TOO FAR GONE TO BRING OVER. WE NEED YOU TO COME TO THEM!

A FIRE! IT BROKE OUT AT THE NORTHERN PUB!

HEY, NOW!

UG

Oh my stars...

YOU! YOU'RE A WITCH, AREN'T YOU?!

AND YOU DO WATER-WORK!

WHAT LUCK! YOU, TOO! COME HELP US PUT OUT THE FIRE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU WITCHES DO, RIGHT?! HELP PEOPLE IN NEED!

W-WAIT! I...!

COCO?

I'LL... JUST BE SLEEPING ANYWAY.

IT'S OKAY, MASTER...

I CAN'T! I MUST STAY HERE!

SO... GO. HELP THEM.

IT'S WHAT... WITCHES DO.

YOU REST UP AND GET WELL.

I'LL BE BACK SOON.

...

ALL RIGHT, COCO.

WHY'D I HAVE TO ACT SO BRAVE?

IT'S KINDA SCARY TO BE HERE ON MY OWN.

!

IT FEELS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE THAT NIGHTMARE AGAIN.

SST

HELLO? ANYONE HERE?

CREAK

I CAN'T FIND MY CAP ANY-WHERE.

THIS IS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE I STILL HAVEN'T CHECKED.

I SURE HOPE IT'S...

IT IS! MY CAP! IT'S HERE!

OOOHHH...

PHEW

GREAT. NOW I CAN *FINALLY* GO HOME.

OHHH...

YOU DOING OKAY?

YOU ABLE TO WAKE UP?

IS SHE ASLEEP? SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

MAYBE I SHOULD WAKE HER UP?

H-HEY. COCO.

...could she mistake me for her mom?!

UM! YOU, UH...

H-How...

HUH? TARTAH ...?

...YOU WERE CRYING OUT IN YOUR SLEEP, SO...

...?

M... MOMMY ...

HEY, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.

KOFF

KOFF

YOU'RE LOOKING WORSE THAN BEFORE.

WHAT A SURPRISE. WHY'D YOU COME BACK...?

HOW COULD THERE NOT BE ANY DOCTORS AROUND?!

AND WHERE'S MISTER QIFREY?!

HELLO? ISN'T THERE ANYONE HERE?!

SO THAT'S WHY THOSE PEOPLE WERE RUSHING OFF!

?!

TMP TMP

MASTER... AND THE DOCTOR...

...FIGHTING A FIRE... IN THE NORTH.

KOFF

KOFF

SHOOT. WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THEY'LL BE GONE. SHOULD I GO FETCH THEM?

カリ
チャ
K-CLK

IT'S GOOD FOR FEVERS. STOPS COUGHS, TOO. THEY GOTTA KEEP SOME AROUND HERE.

REMEMBER THAT TRANQUILEAF STUFF I TOLD YOU ABOUT EARLIER?

WELL, FIRST, WE SHOULD...

...GET YOU SOMETHING TO COMBAT THAT FEVER!

CLATTER

CLATTER

NOT A SINGLE LABEL!

I GUESS THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE DARKER...

IS COLOR ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE ELSE TO TELL ALL OF THESE APART?!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! HOW COULD THEY NOT HAVE LABELS?!

PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE WITH THIS STUFF!

NOT *THIS* AGAIN! *WHY?!*

WHY DOES EVERYONE ELSE JUST ASSUME WE ALL SEE THE WORLD THE SAME WAY?!

THANK GOODNESS HIS CARVING AT LEAST SHOWS PROMISE.

EVEN AS A STATIONER, HE'LL NEVER REALLY EXCEL.

SILVER-WASH, HM? WELL, THAT RULES OUT ANY COMPLEX MAGIC. NO DYES.

IT MIGHT NOT BE AN ISSUE WHILE HE'S YOUNG, BUT LATER ON...

A LOT OF DYES ARE MADE FROM INGREDIENTS THAT ARE ALSO USEFUL IN MEDICINE.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ALL DO! IF ONLY I COULD TELL THEM *APART...!*

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, AND I'M *USELESS!*

WE'VE ALL GOT THINGS WE'RE CAPABLE OF AND THINGS WE'RE NOT.

DANG IT ALL!

UGH. JUST FOCUS ON THE THINGS YOU CAN DO. THAT'S ENOUGH.

...YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE OUT THE POSSIBILITIES IN FRONT OF YOU.

WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS BATHED IN SILVER...

CLUTCH

AND YOU'RE THE ONE THAT HAS TO SUFFER.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

WIPE

WHAT'S... WRONG, TARTAH?

YOU CAN DRINK, RIGHT? YOU GOTTA STAY HYDRATED. HERE. USE THIS VAPOR BU—

...!

WELL, I CAN AT LEAST GET YOU SOME WATER.

WAIT A SEC.

GRANDPA USES ONE OF THESE...

...WHEN HE MIXES THE INK.

IF I PULL ALL THE WATER OUT OF THE SOLUTIONS...

OF COURSE! WITH THIS...

...I CAN SEPARATE THE SOLIDS FROM THE LIQUIDS.

...MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS MIXED IN!

NOT THIS ONE. IT SHOULDN'T CRYSTALLIZE WHEN THE WATER'S GONE.

SO FIRST, I'LL FIGURE OUT WHICH ONES BECOME POWDERS WHEN ALL THE WATER'S PULLED OUT!

TRANQUILEAF IS PREPARED AS A POWDER. YOU DRY THE HERB AND GRIND IT UP.

HMMMM

TRANQUILEAF DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN ODOR, SO ONES THAT SMELL BAD ARE OUT.

MM

AND NOT THIS ONE. IT SHOULDN'T GLOW WHEN MOONLIGHT PASSES THROUGH.

NOPE. THIS ONE'S STILL A LIQUID. THERE'S JUST LESS OF IT.

THAT LEAVES THESE.

IT'S DOWN TO JUST THESE THREE!

RUFFLE RUFFLE RUFFLE

わしゃ わしゃ わしゃ

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!

JUST A LITTLE—

ARGH! I'M SO CLOSE!

BUT THEY ALL LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME!

NO... THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO.

I DUNNO WHY I EVEN THOUGHT I COULD IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I TRIED, BUT...

...I GUESS I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

SORRY, COCO.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BY NOW...

...THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.

...!

NO. THAT'S... NOT TRUE.

WOBBLE

THAT'S WHAT MAGIC IS FOR. TO TURN THINGS YOU CAN'T DO...

...INTO THINGS YOU CAN!

Y-YEAH! I DO! I'VE GOT...

...A PEN I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF CARVING!

FWIP

LIFT

DO YOU HAVE A PEN...? AND SOME INK...?

!

...

SHIVER

GASP

FWISH

NO, IT'S NOT FOR ME.

SKRCH

SKRCH

OR... NOT *JUST* ME, ANYWAY.

IS THIS GONNA HELP YOU GET BETTER?

WHAT KIND OF SPELL ARE YOU DRAWING?

TO HELP *BOTH* OF US...!

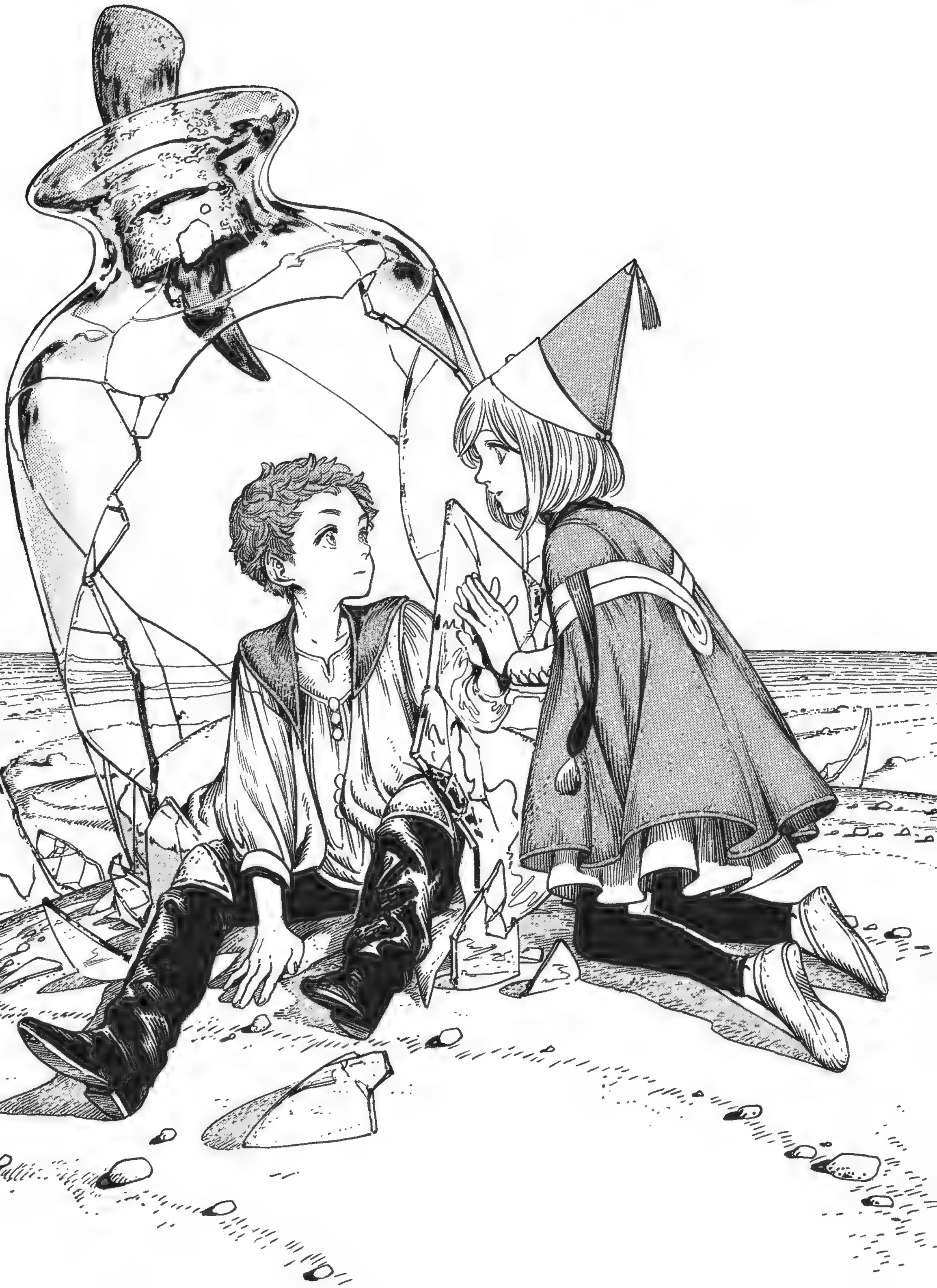
IT'S A SPELL TO HELP YOU.

HUH...?

TO HELP *ME*, TOO?

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 17



WHAT KIND OF SPELL...

...IS GONNA HELP *ME* OUT?

THIS IS THE SIGIL OF EARTH.

"THE SYMBOL OF MIGHT ..."

"...THAT CONTROLS THE VERY LAND ITSELF."

IT'S USED FOR DRILLING TUNNELS AND CRUSHING BOULDERS INTO SAND. THIS SIGIL HAS SAVED ME TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

THE FORM A SPELL TAKES IS DETERMINED BY ITS SIGNS.

CHANGE THE SIGNS, AND THE SPELL CHANGES, TOO.

WHAT DOES ANY OF THAT HAVE TO DO WITH OUR PROBLEM *NOW?*

I THINK MAGIC IS LIKE A BLANK SLATE. IT DOESN'T FIGHT BACK. IT JUST LISTENS TO YOU.

TOO LONG, AND THE SPELL SHOOTS OFF IN ONE DIRECTION...

SET THE SIGNS AT AN ANGLE, AND THE SPELL MOVES IN A SPIRAL...

THE SIGNS.

WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

LISTENS ...

MAGIC JUST...

WHAT THIS SPELL USUALLY DOES IS BREAK THINGS UP INTO TINY PIECES. LIKE TURNING STONE INTO SAND.

WE'LL TAKE THE SIGNS OF CRUSHING AND DRAW THEM UPSIDE DOWN.

...THEN MAYBE THE SPELL WILL TRY TO PUT THE PIECES BACK *TOGETHER!*

BUT IF THE SIGNS ARE BACK-WARDS...

GLOW

...THE SHAPES. THE ORIGINAL SHAPES YOU KNOW SO WELL.

...TO LEAD YOU TO THE ANSWER!

IT'S A SPELL FOR *YOU*, TARTAH...

IT'LL SHOW YOU...

RIGHT!

BWU

MPH

ERM...

...HUH?

H-HEY, YOU DID YOUR BEST!

WHEN YOU'RE WEAK, IT ENDS UP A BIG MESS.

It's all sloppy and wobbly like me...

OH, NO. SEE? MAGIC JUST LISTENS TO YOU.

SHWUMP

IT'S OKAY! REALLY!

NOW I'M BURNING UP WITH *EMBAR-RASSMENT*, TOO!

AUUGHH... AND AFTER I TRIED TO ACT SO CLEVER. PLEASE, PROMISE ME YOU'LL JUST FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED...

HEY...

SO...

Y-YEAH, AND YOU'D HAVE TO EVEN IT OUT...

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DRAW THIS AGAIN, BUT MORE CAREFULLY, RIGHT?

I'M USED TO IT FROM WORK.

I DUNNO MUCH ABOUT DRAWING.

BUT WHAT I *AM* GOOD AT IS SEEING BALANCE.

...INSTEAD OF JUST THE TOP AND BOTTOM?

WOULD IT BE OKAY TO PUT IT ON THE SIDES, TOO...

HEY.

ABOUT THIS SIGN.

WITH THE SEAL AS IT IS NOW, THE POWDER'S PROBABLY...

...SPILLING OUT ON THE SIDES, MAKING THE SHAPE ALL FUZZY.

MOLD

FLOP

FLOP

MOLD

WHEN YOU SHAPE AN OBJECT...

...YOU GOTTA LOOK AT IT FROM EVERY ANGLE. THAT'S HOW PENS ARE.

NO. IT'S OKAY. IT'S JUST A BASIC SPELL FROM THE PRIMER.

IF YOU MAKE YOUR OWN ADJUSTMENTS AND CHANGE HOW IT WORKS, IT'LL BECOME YOUR OWN ORIGINAL MAGIC.

UM... THAT IS...

SORRY!

I DON'T MEAN TO REWRITE YOUR SPELL OR ANYTHING.

SO...
TRY IT.

GRIP

OKAY.

I'LL
GIVE IT
A SHOT.

I DID IT.

PHEW...

THIS COULD'VE GONE BADLY. NONE OF THE ONES I PICKED WERE TRANQUILEAF.

SHFF

IT WORKED.

JUST FOR A SECOND, BUT IT WORKED!

INCRED-IBLE!

COCO! I DID IT!

WAY TO GO...!

KOFF

KOFF

KFF

OH! RIGHT. SORRY.

THE MEDI-CINE!

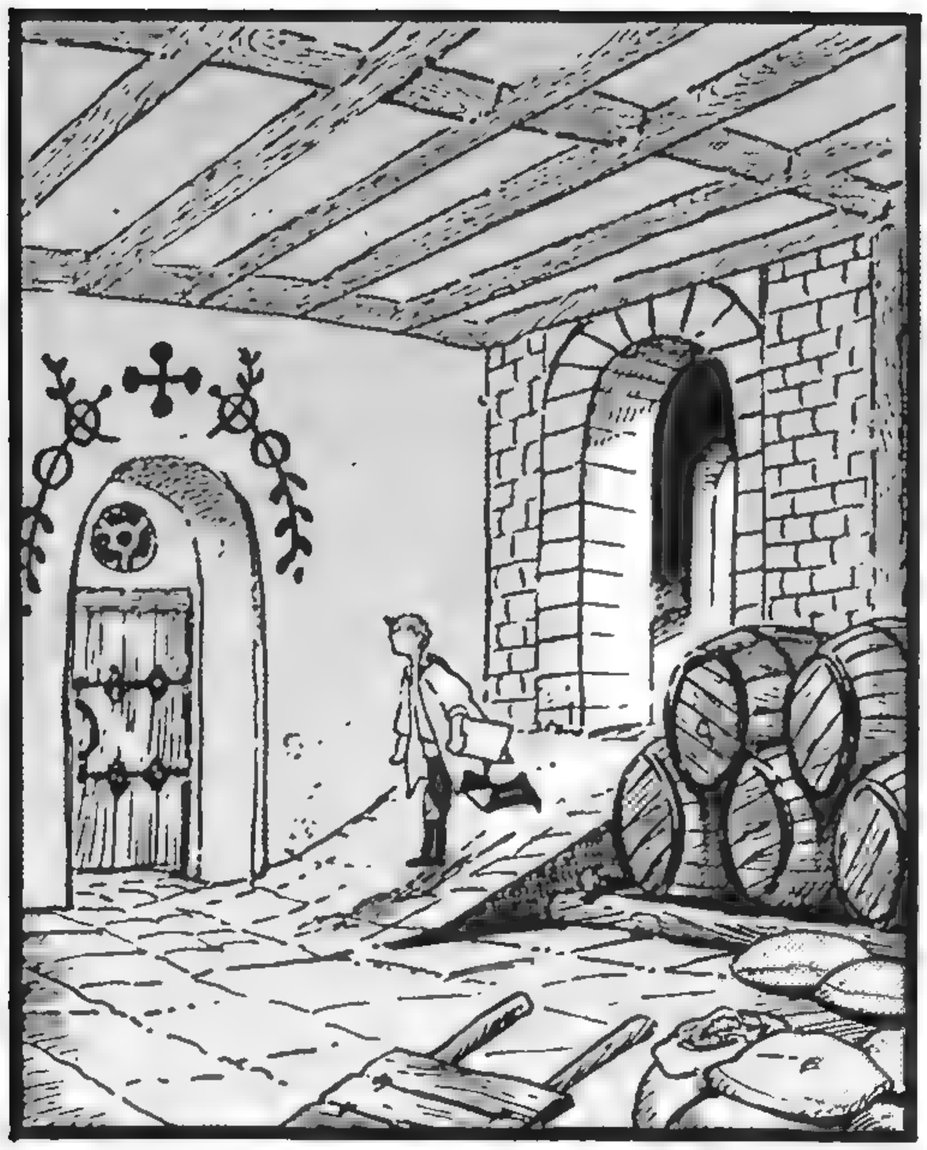
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY'D HAVE SOME IN HERE!

MAYBE THERE'S SOME IN THE STORE-HOUSE.

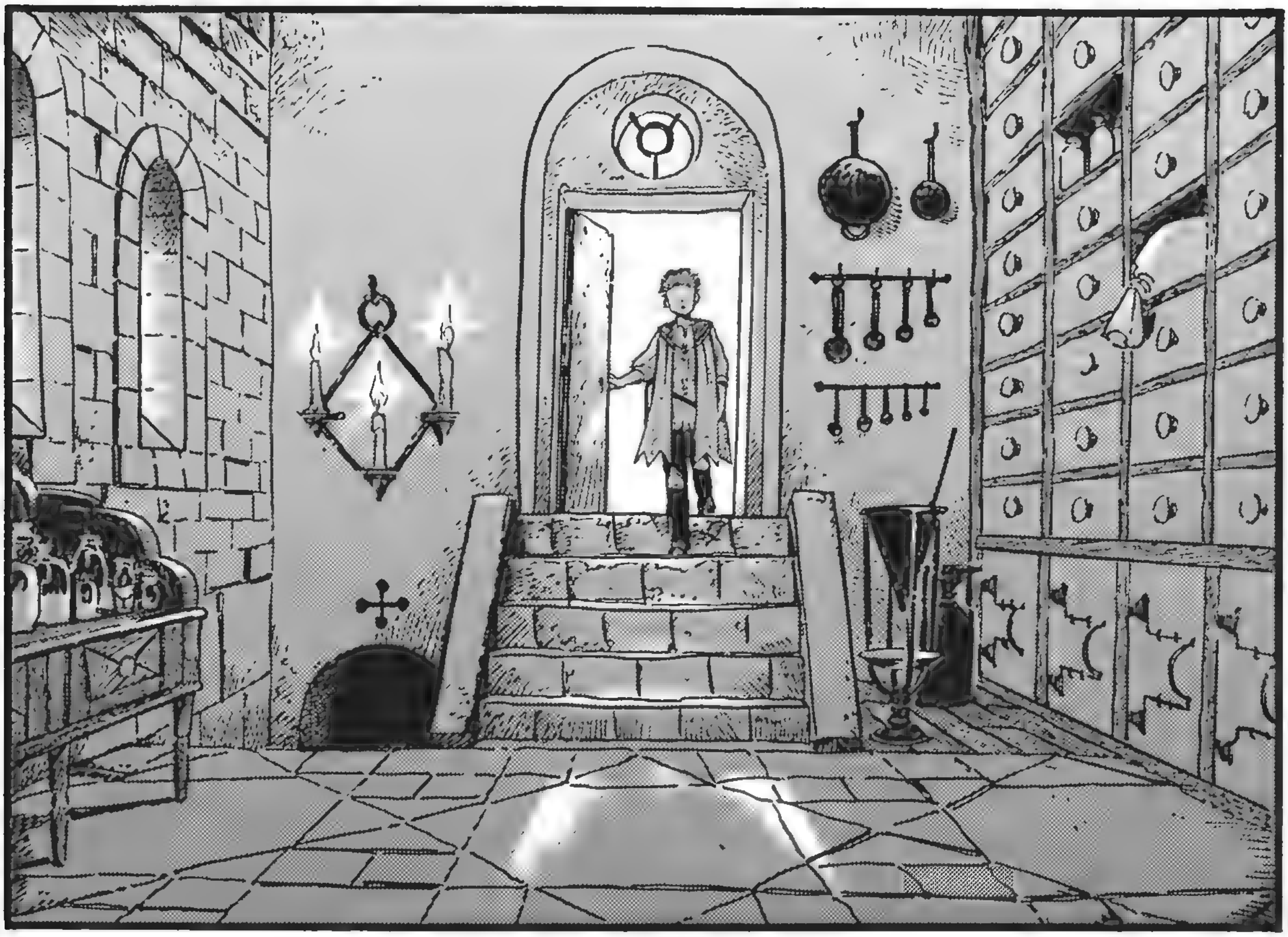
ALL RIGHT!

COCO, I'M GONNA USE THIS SEAL TO FIND YOU SOME!

I CAN DO IT IF I'VE GOT THIS MAGIC!



TMP
TOC



KINDA REMINDS ME...

...OF HOME.

GLOW

THORN-BARK...

MILL-FLOWER...

SEABRIAR...

SLEEPING WILLOW AND DRIZZLEBEE HIVE...

THIS IS INCRED-IBLE.

THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE PICTURES IN THE BOOK.

I RECOG-NIZE...

...THEM ALL.

...IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD COMES INTO FOCUS.

EVERY TIME I HOLD THE SEAL UP...

...ARE THERE TO SHOW ME THE ANSWER.

ALL THE THINGS I WORKED SO HARD TO REMEMBER ...

ゴ!! THNK

...SOMETHING YOU WEREN'T ...

THIS IS HOW GREAT IT FEELS TO FINALLY MANAGE...

...CAPABLE OF BEFORE.

CREAK

THIS IS THEIR STOCK OF TRANQUILEAF!

I GOTTA HURRY SOME OF THIS BACK TO HER.

SHFF

SNIFF

FOUND IT!

UM!

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

HOLD IT!

YOU THERE!

NO DOCTORS ON DUTY?! WHAT NONSENSE!

...

THINGS AROUND HERE GET QUITE HECTIC AFTER A FIRE.

WE WERE SIMPLY OVER IN THE WEST WING, PREPARING TO RECEIVE BURN PATIENTS.

A HOSPITAL WOULD NEVER BE LEFT COMPLETELY UNATTENDED! HOW COULD YOU IMAGINE OTHERWISE?!

I'M SORRY. I JUST PANICKED, AND...

IT'S ADMIRABLE OF YOU TO WANT TO HELP YOUR FRIEND.

CLINK

HONESTLY, THOUGH. STAYING OVERZEALOUS HANDS IS *PRECISELY* THE REASON...

...WE DON'T USE LABELS. YOU COULD HAVE MADE THINGS WORSE WITH THE WRONG MEDICINE.

AND WE HAVE TO FIRST CHECK WHAT SHE'S ALREADY TAKEN.

BUT HERBS MAKE POISONS AS EASILY AS MEDICINES.

ADMINISTERING THEM REQUIRES PROPER EDUCATION.

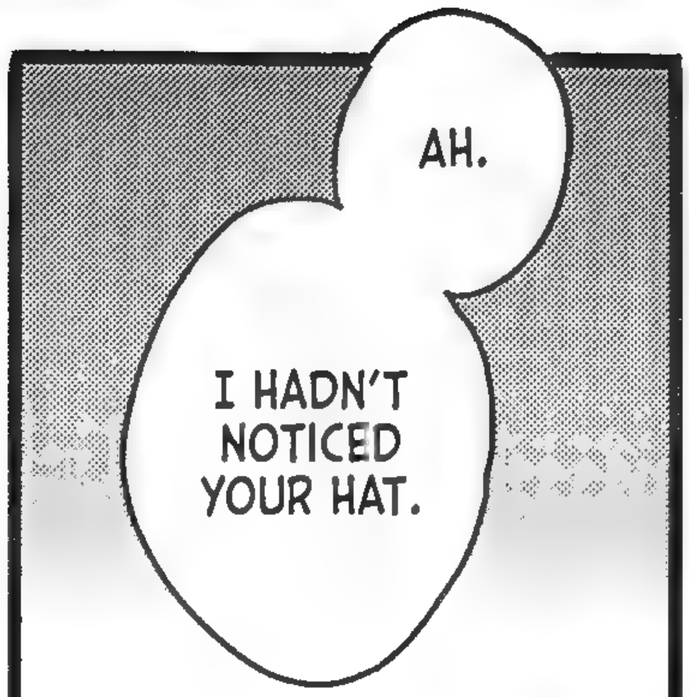
HUH?! NO, UM, I'M...

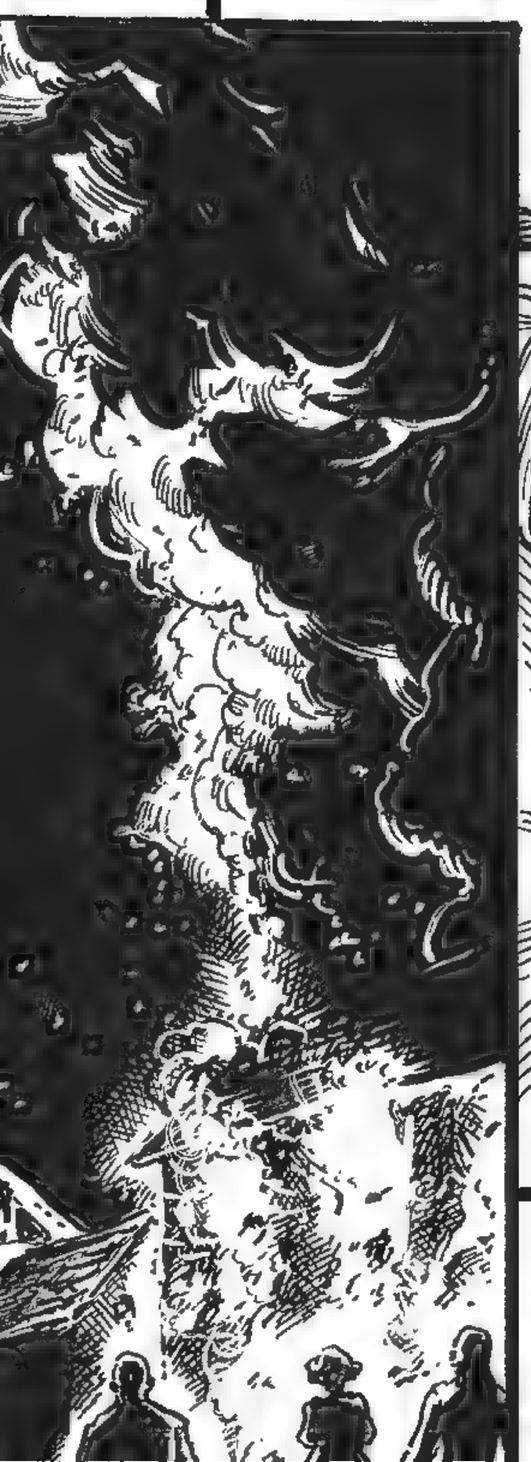
PERHAPS YOU'RE CONSIDERING A PATH INTO MEDICINE?

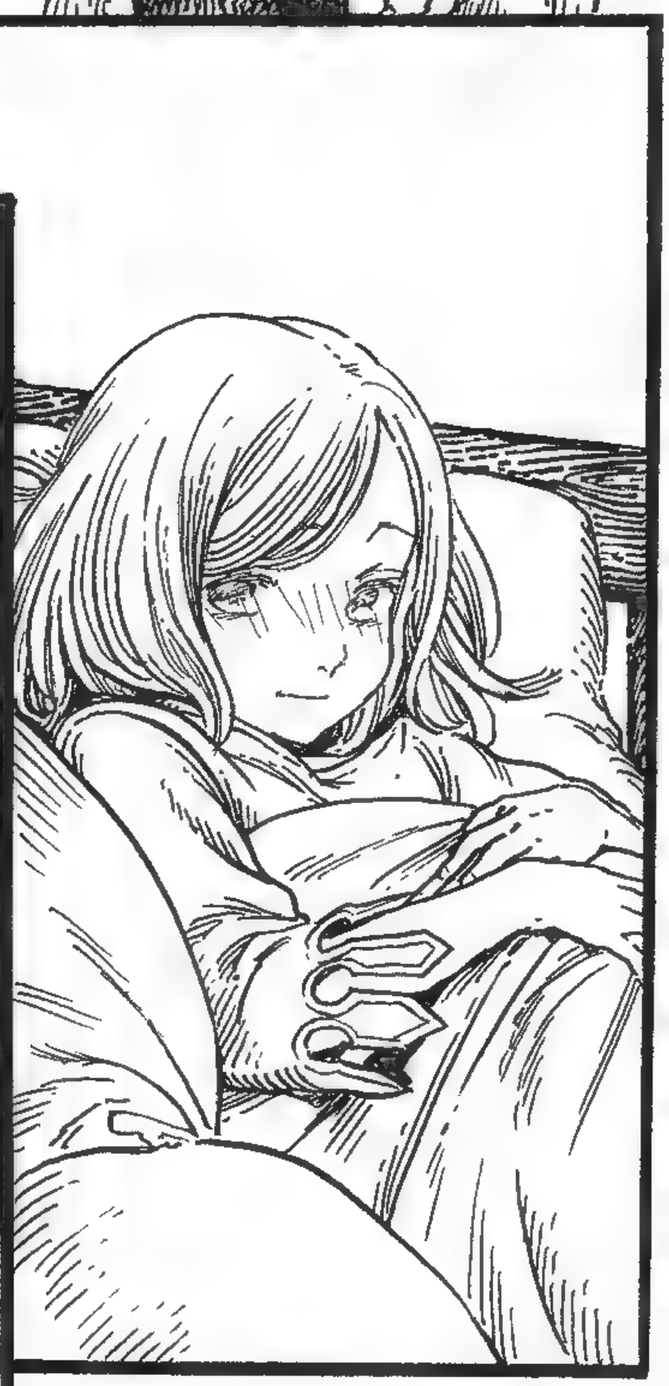
HAVE YOU BEEN STUDYING APOTH-ECARY?

IN THIS CASE, TRANQUILEAF JUST *HAPPENED* TO BE THE CORRECT CHOICE.

YOU'RE STUDYING TO BE A WITCH, HM?


AH.
I HADN'T NOTICED YOUR HAT.





...

OH, THANK GOODNESS HE'S SAFE!

WHERE WOULD WE HAVE BEEN WITHOUT YOU?

I'M GLAD I MADE IT IN TIME.

I WOULD HAVE NEVER GUESSED AN INFANT MIGHT BE ASLEEP UPSTAIRS.

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

I'M WORRIED ...

...ABOUT MY APPRENTICE. I WANT TO BE BESIDE—

WHIRL

HOOK

ACK!

HEY, NOW! WHERE ARE *YOU* OFF TO?

OTHER WITCHES HAVE ARRIVED FROM THE ISLAND. I SHOULD START MAKING MY WAY BACK.

EVERYTHING'S A PIECE OF CAKE FOR YOU WITCH TYPES, RIGHT?

JUST WIGGLE YER FINGERS AND PROBLEM SOLVED!

CRIPES! YOU ABANDONIN' OUR BAR?!

T-TO THE HOSPITAL TO—

THE *FLAMES* AIN'T EVEN OUT YET!

UM...

MAGIC'S NOT EXACTLY AS *SIMPLE* AS THAT.

WHAP!

THAT'S WHY YOU GOTTA LEAD THE WAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE!

MY MASTER AND I CAN HANDLE THIS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GO.

I APPRECIATE IT...

OUTSIDERS DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA.

MUMBLE

THERE'S NOTHING EASY ABOUT IT.

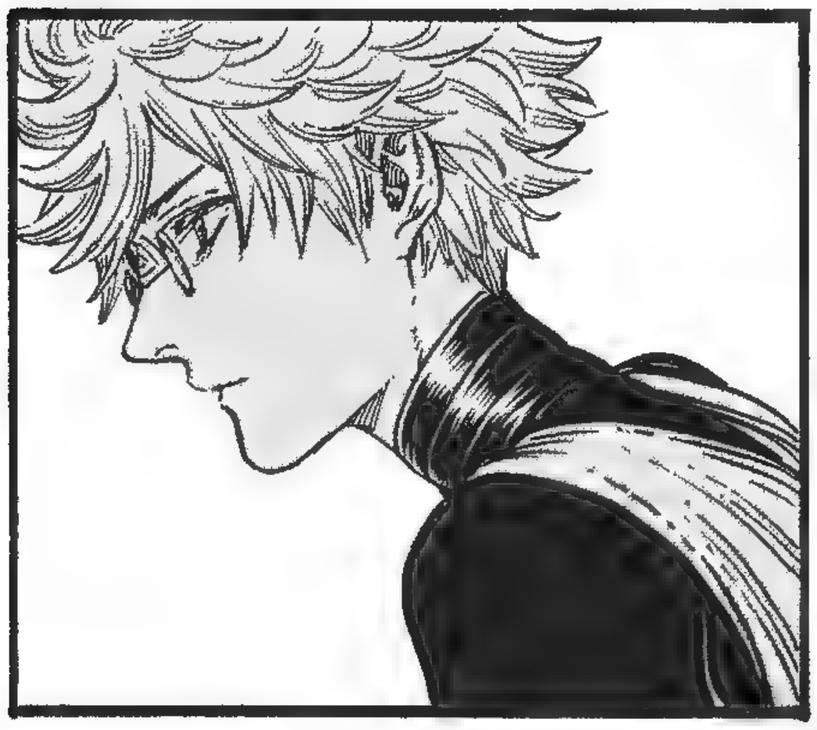
NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST.

FWAH

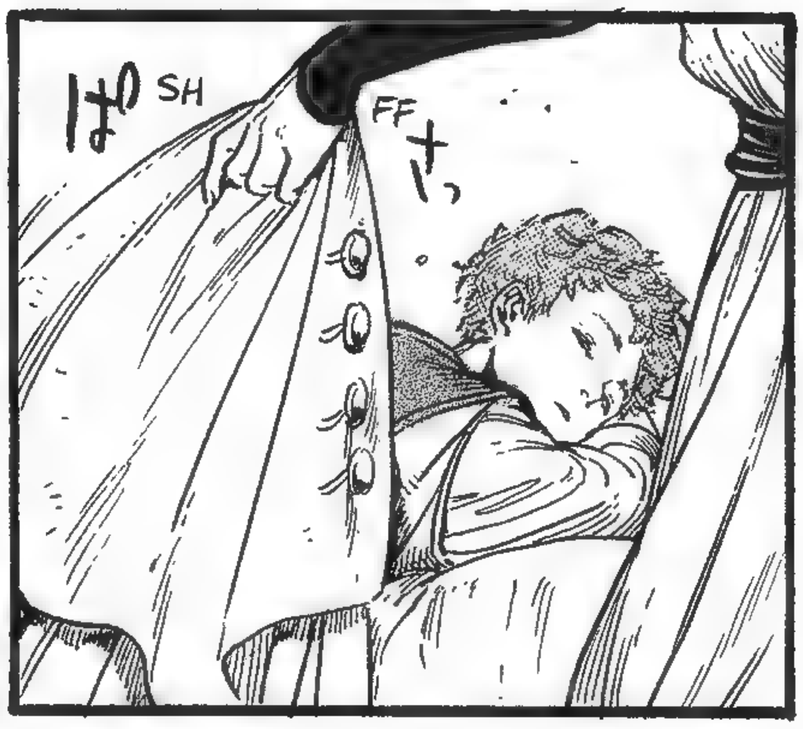
IF MAGIC WERE THAT SIMPLE...

CREAK

...WE WOULD BE UNTROUBLED BY PAIN AND SUFFERING.



SSF


170 SH
FF

AHHHH!

IT FEELS SO MUCH EASIER TO *BREATHE.*

!

I GUESS THE MEDICINE MUST HAVE HELPED.

THANKS, TARTAH.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. YOU'RE LOOKING MUCH BETTER THIS MORNING.

YOUR FEVER APPEARS TO HAVE SUBSIDED, TOO.

WELL, UM... REALLY, *I* SHOULD BE THANKING YOU, I GUESS.

YEAH!

THEY CERTAINLY ARE.

WITCHES SURE ARE AMAZING.

HUH?!

NO! UM, I MEANT, UH... *YOU'RE* AMAZING, COCO.

BUT MY SPELL WAS ALL *FLOPPY*, AND...

...running out the sides.

I seem to remember it...

COME ON DOWN, YOU TWO!

HEY, UP THERE!

SORRY, GRANDPA.

YOU DIDN'T COME HOME. THEN I HEARD THERE WAS A FIRE, AND...

TARTAH, M'BOY. I WAS WORRIED!

THAT'S RIGHT.

I WANTED TO ASK...

OH!

THANKS FOR LETTIN' ME KNOW, QIFREY.

BRIGHT LIGHT?

...FROM THE OTHER DAY.

...ABOUT THAT BRIGHT LIGHT...

...EVEN SURE MYSELF. I SHOULD...

...LOOK INTO IT MORE, FIRST.

IT'S NOT RIGHT TO DOUBT HIM WHEN I'M NOT...

...

I GUESS QIFREY DIDN'T SEE IT, EITHER.

IT MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINA-TION.

NO. NEVER MIND.

YEAH!

I GUESS WE SHOULD BE ON OUR WAY, TOO.

WE'LL BE SHOVING OFF SOON.

HEY, COCO!

...TO DELIVER IT!

I PROM-ISE!

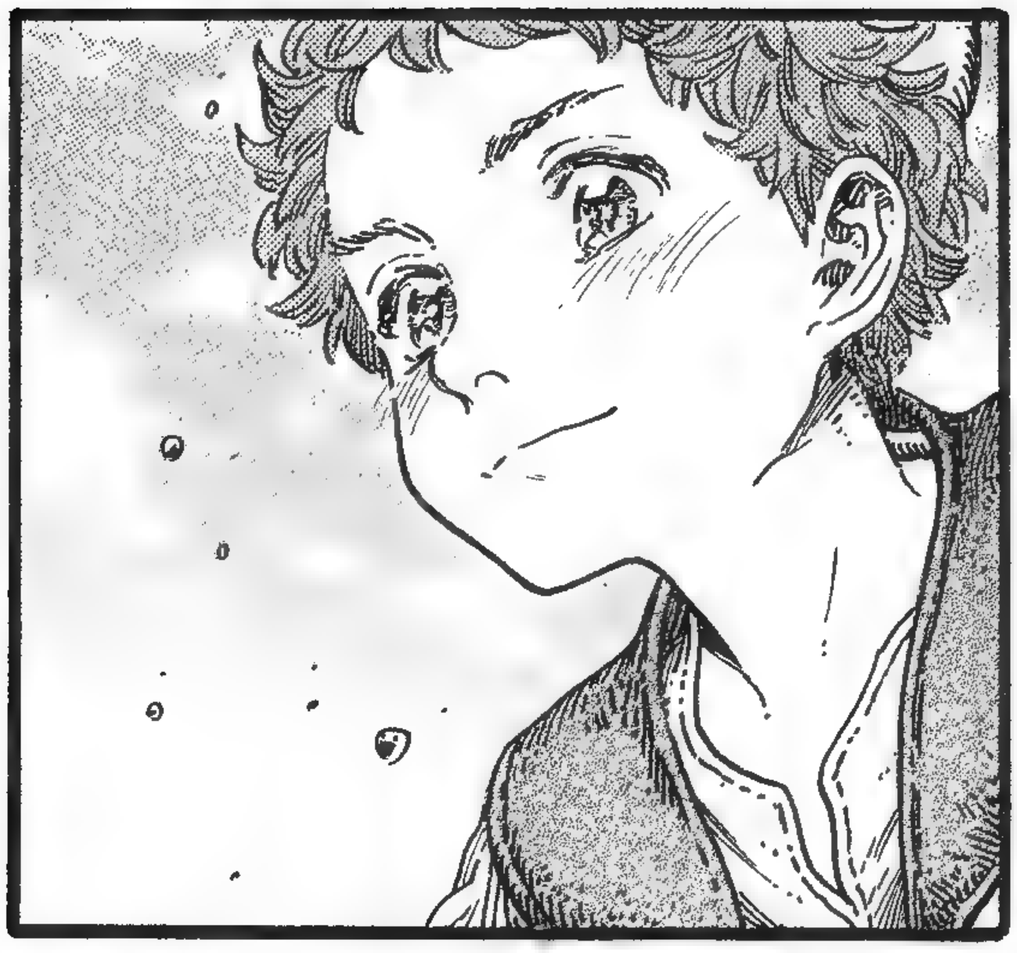
I'M GONNA ...

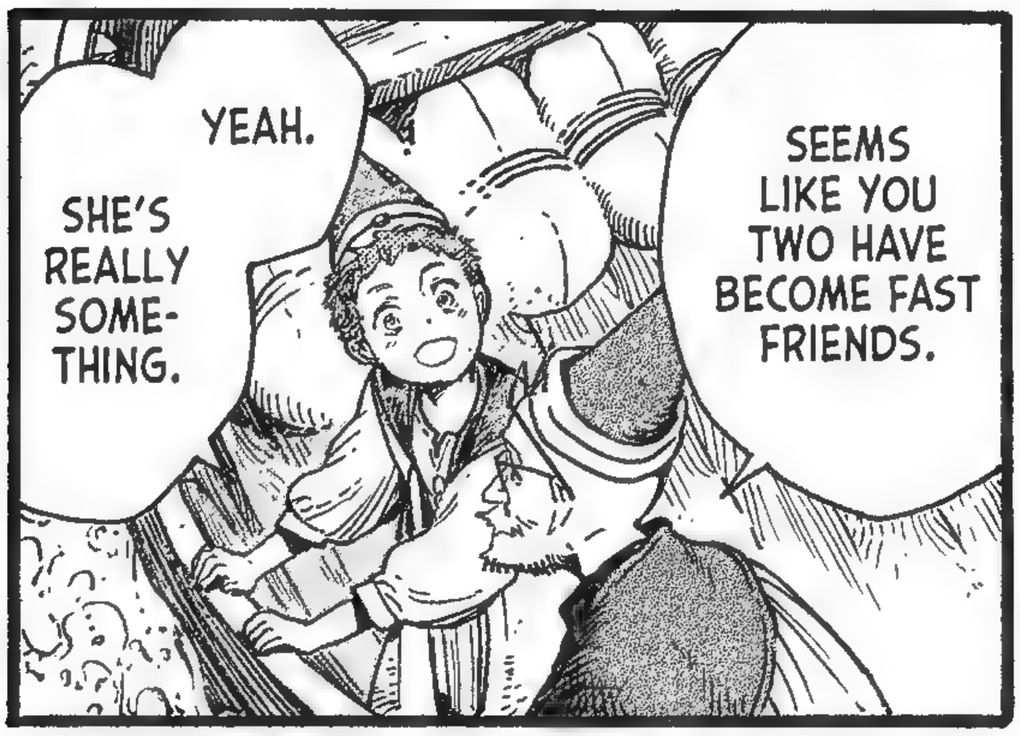
...MAKE A PEN JUST FOR YOU!

AND I'M GONNA CROSS THE RIVER WITH MY VERY OWN MAGIC...

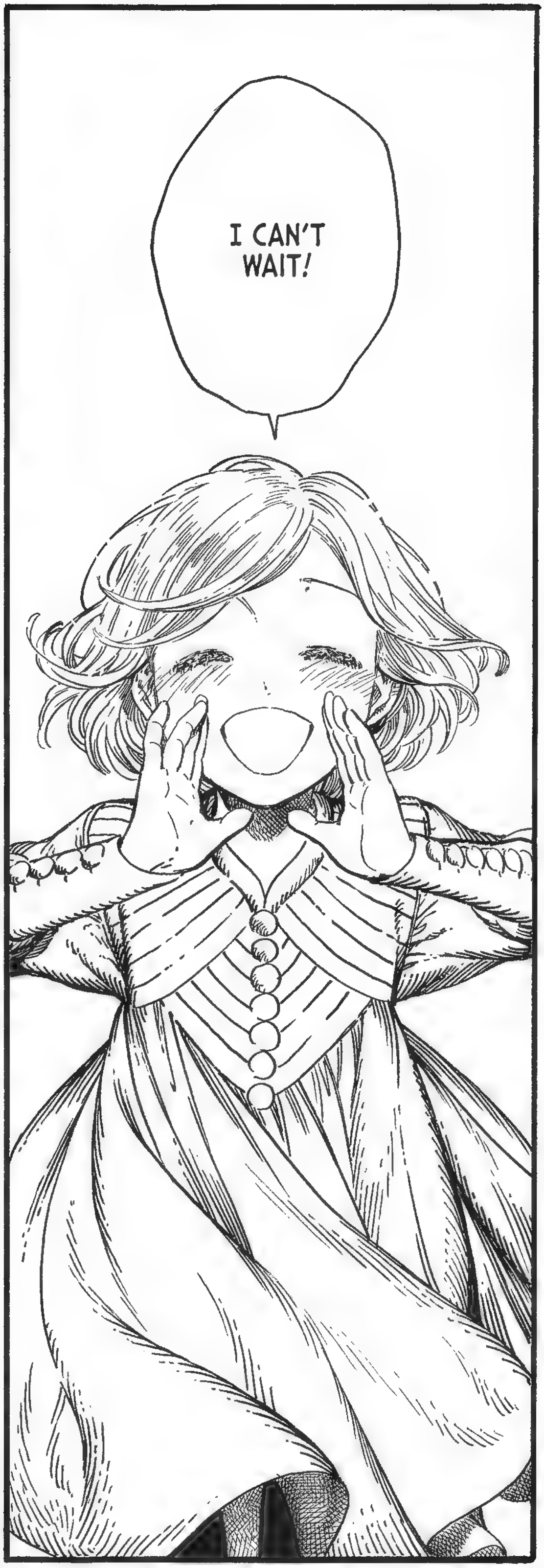
SOUNDS GOOD!

...!




YEAH.
SHE'S REALLY SOME-THING.
SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE BECOME FAST FRIENDS.

AND I'M SURE...
...SHE'S GONNA BECOME AN EVEN MORE AMAZING WITCH IN TIME.


I CAN'T WAIT!

HAHA!

HAH! AND YOU'LL BE AMAZIN', TOO, M'BOY!

I SEE.

SO IT WAS NIGHTMARES DISTURBING YOUR SLEEP.

BUT...

...I THINK I'M GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.

THANK YOU, MASTER.

MAGIC TO PUT SOMEONE TO SLEEP IS FORBIDDEN...

DREAMS AREN'T EASY TO ADDRESS.

...BUT LET'S SEARCH FOR ANOTHER WAY TO HELP YOU.

ALL GREAT DISCOVERIES ARE BORN OF ADVERSITY.

I CAN FEEL IT.

'CAUSE I'VE FOUND A GLIMMER OF HOPE.

I'M SURE!

YOU SURE? DON'T OVERDO IT AGAIN.

THAT MIGHT BE ALL IT TAKES TO REVERSE THE SPELL THAT TURNED MY MOTHER TO STONE!

ALL I NEED TO DO IS REVERSE THE SIGNS IN THE SEAL FROM THE PICTURE BOOK.

...THE SAME SHOULD BE TRUE EVEN FOR **FORBIDDEN** SPELLS.

IF THE SIGNS ...

...ARE REVERSED, THE SPELL...

...HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

AND THAT MEANS ...

RUSTLE

OVER HERE!

COCO! HEY, COCO!

ARE YOU OKAY?! IS YOUR FEVER GONE?!

WE WERE SO WORRIED!

Oh, I'm so relieved! So relieved!

Phew

IT SEEMS THAT PEACE HAS NOT YET MADE FOOLS OF THEM ALL.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR GIFT DIDN'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED.

YET WE CANNOT SIT IDLE.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO ACT.

...INTEND TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE?

FWAH

THEN I SUPPOSE ...

...YOU, THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC...

INDEED.

WHEN THE APPRENTICES LEAVE THEIR TEACHER'S PROTECTION TO TAKE THE TEST...

...WE SHALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS.

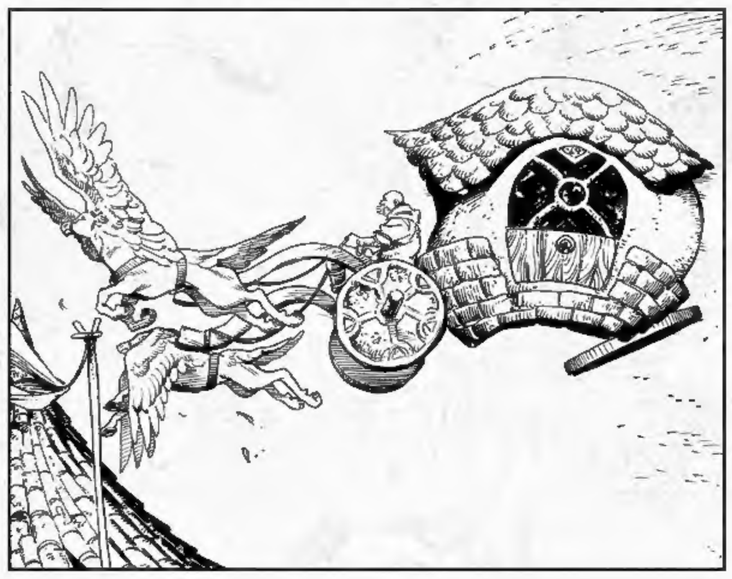
THE ANIMALS OF WITCH HAT

PEGASUS

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 1

WINGED STEEDS USED TO DRAW FLYING CARRIAGES. EVEN WITHIN THE CITIES, PASSAGE ON SUCH A CARRIAGE IMPLIES A CERTAIN DEGREE OF WEALTH. THE ANIMALS HAVE TWO PAIRS OF WINGS—ONE PAIR EACH SPROUTING FROM WHERE ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND THE EARS AND TAIL OF A NORMAL HORSE. THESE EXTRA APPENDAGES ARE CAUSE FOR SOME SCIENTIFIC DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER THE ANIMAL SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS HAVING FOUR OR EIGHT LIMBS.

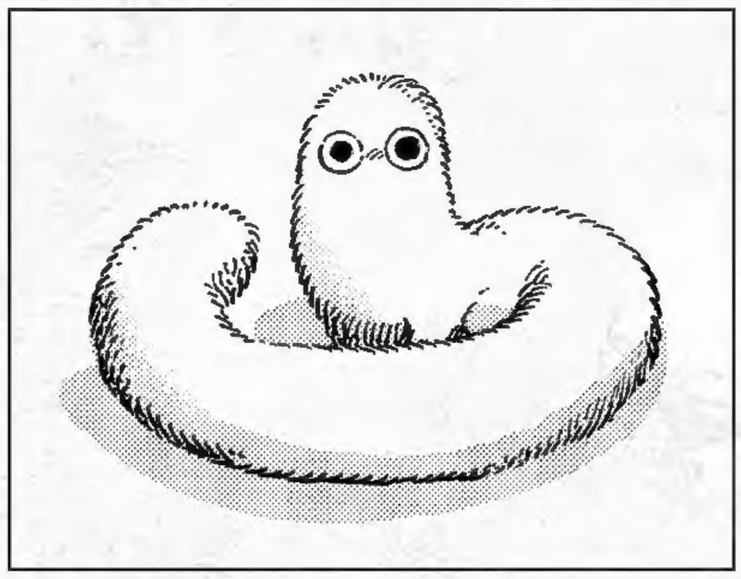
IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING LEG INJURIES, TAKEOFF FROM AND LANDING ON STONE SURFACES IS GENERALLY PROHIBITED. SLIGHTLY SLOWER THAN A NORMAL HORSE WHEN RUNNING ON THE GROUND.



BRUSHBUDDY

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 4

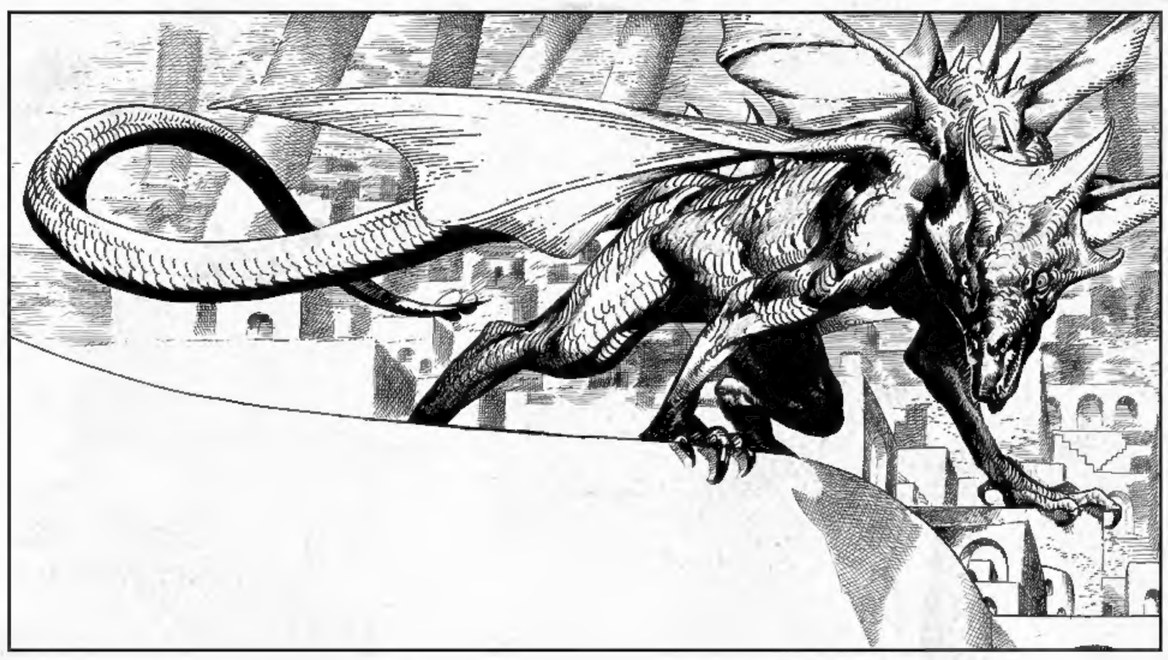
SMALL CREATURES COVERED IN FUR LIKE THE SOFT BRISTLES OF A WRITING BRUSH. FOND OF THE SCENT OF CONJURING INK. WHEN GIVEN THE CHANCE, KNOWN TO COVER THEIR OWN BODIES IN INK AND FROLIC AROUND; AN INKPOT LEFT UNCOVERED AND UNATTENDED MAY RESULT IN QUITE A MESSY ROOM IF ANY BRUSHBUDDIES ARE AROUND. IN ADDITION TO THE WHITE-FURRED VARIETY, NUMEROUS OTHER COLORINGS EXIST—EVEN ONES WITH PATTERNED APPEARANCES. PREFERRED DIET INCLUDES NUTS AND FRUITS. EXHIBITS A MUCH SHORTER, ALMOST ROUND APPEARANCE AT BIRTH.

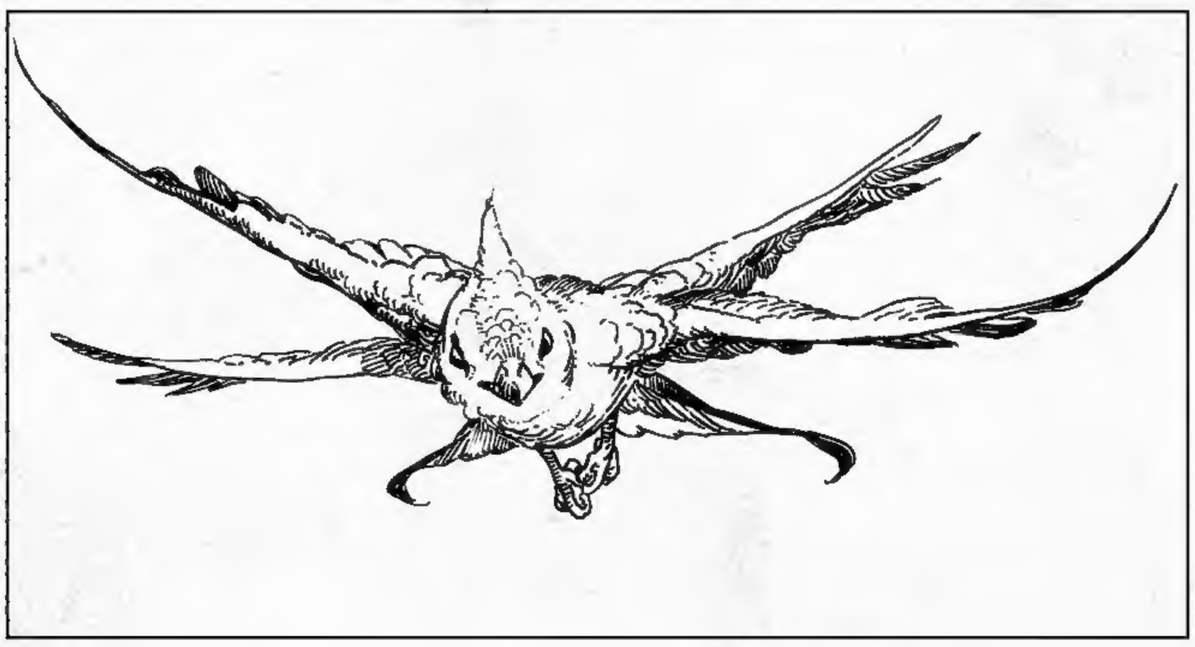


DRAGON

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 5

RARELY IF EVER SEEN NEAR CENTERS OF HUMAN POPULATION. DIET IS VARIED AND INCLUDES BOTH MEAT AND VEGETATION. EXTREMELY TERRITORIAL; KNOWN TO STRIKE AT INTRUDERS WITH ITS LONG, WHIPLIKE TAIL. CAPABLE OF GLIDING THROUGH THE AIR AND LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY FLAMES. THESE CREATURES' SCALES AND EGGSHELLS ARE SOURCES OF HIGHLY PRIZED CONJURING INK DYES.





QUADRYPHON

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 8

RESEMBLES A DRAGONFLY WHEN IN FLIGHT, WITH EACH OF ITS FOUR WINGS BEATING INDEPENDENT OF THE OTHERS. ITS METHOD OF FLIGHT IS THEREFORE QUITE UNLIKE THAT OF OTHER BIRDS, AND IT ENABLES THE CREATURE TO QUICKLY CHANGE DIRECTIONS MIDAIR. BODY LENGTH TYPICALLY MEASURES 60 CM AND WINGSPAN 150 CM. A RELATED SPECIES IS THE "GRYPHON," WHICH EXHIBITS TWO ADDITIONAL LEGS INSTEAD OF THE EXTRA PAIR OF WINGS.

VOLUME 4: ON SALE IN NOVEMBER 2019!

Witch Hat Atelier 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Witch Hat Atelier volume 3 copyright © 2018 Kamome Shirahama
English translation copyright © 2019 Kamome Shirahama

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2018 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by KodanshaAdvanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781642129977

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Stephen Kohler
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee
Editing: Ajani Oloye
Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman